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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 39

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

IN PUBLIC HEARING TO ESTABLISH 2ND MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION:

Meaning of Covenant questioned

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Submerged lands control, rampant militarization, and the federal immigration takeover headlined concerns raised at a public hearing last night on a bill to establish the second Marianas Political Status Commission.

See COVENANT on Page 4

Hocog calls for stronger collaboration in Palau

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog gave the CNMI's support in the "common barriers" the islands of Micronesia face with non-communicable disease, invasive species, shipping costs, and the effects of climate change, at the 21st Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, or MCES, in Koror, Palau.

Hocog

Speaking to regional leaders, Hocog also threw support behind the goal to reduce carbon emissions by 1.5 degrees starting in 2020 as set in the recent Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change last year.

Hocog pushed for a spirit of cooperation and collaboration between the leaders and people of Micronesia, and highlighted the region for coming to the aid of Saipan following the devastating Typhoon

See HOCOG on Page 4

Veteran's wife retraces connection with Saipan

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

In June 15, 1944, a fleet of American ships dropped anchor in the Saipan Lagoon to liberate the island from the Japanese, and among them was the USS *Miami*.

Among those aboard was Chief Quartermaster Richard Neidrauer, who, for 13 months, did not leave his ship that was deployed to the Pacific during World War II.

Richard, who was from Buffalo, New York, was just recently married to his wife Mina at that time when the ship was commissioned and duty called. They met

See VETERAN on Page 4

Mina Neidrauer holds the picture of her late husband, Richard, who served during World War II. Richard was chief quartermaster of USS *Miami* which took part in the Battle of Saipan in 1944.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

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Sea levels on Earth are rising several times faster than they have in the past 2,800 years and are accelerating.
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Pop star Madonna made surprise visits to two Manila shelters for orphans and street children.
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Local

Gain Millennia files $22.5M lawsuit vs Dynasty owner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A British Virgin Islands corporation has filed a $22.5-million lawsuit against the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for allegedly refusing to return the money it deposited.

Gain Millennia Limited, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, is suing Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Limited for breach of contract.

Gain Millennia asked the Superior Court to hold HKE liable to pay the company $22,471,477.48, plus post-judgment interest at a rate of 9 percent, and court costs.

Thompson stated in the complaint that Gain Millennia and HKE entered a contract on Dec. 9, 2014.

Thompson said the purpose of the contract was to secure the repayment of refundable deposits in the amount of $19,471,477.48 made by Gain Millennia to HKE.

The lawyer said HKE promised to return the entire deposit in three installments.

The first installment was allegedly due on Feb. 28, 2015, the second was due on April 30, 2015, and the final installment was due on June 30, 2015.

Thompson said pursuant to the contract, if HKE failed to return the deposit as obligated, the entire amount became immediately repayable to Gain Millennia.

Thompson said HKE failed and refused to return any portion of the deposit.

Thompson said Tinian Entertainment Co. Ltd. and HKE entered a contract on July 6, 2015.

He said under this contract, Gain Millennia was required to make certain deposits to HKE.

Thompson said pursuant to the terms of the contract, Tinian Entertainment Co. deposited to HKE $500,000 on July 9, 2015 and $2,500,000 on July 17, 2015.

Thompson said pursuant to this contract, HKE became obligated at the end of December 2015 to refund to Tinian Entertainment the total deposits of $3 million.

HKE allegedly failed or refused to return any of the deposit.

Thompson said that on Jan. 15, 2016, Tinian Entertainment Co. assigned all of its rights and obligations under the contract, including the right to return the $3 million, to Gain Millennia.

In February 2015, *Saipan Tribune* reported that in January 2015, the owner of Tinian Dynasty entered a memorandum of understanding with Gain Millennia.

The MOU sets forth the principal terms and conditions upon which HKE and Bermuda-based Chinese Strategic Holdings would enter into the lease of the Tinian Dynasty.

Under the MOU, Gain Millennia would give HKE a HK$50 million (around $6.4 million at that time) refundable deposit for partial settlement and discharge of the total rent for the initial term, which is a fixed term of six years from the execution of the lease.

Under the MOU, conditional upon approval of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, Gain Millennia will have complete control over Tinian Dynasty hotel operations as well as its gaming operations during the term.

Tinian Entertainment Co. is reportedly the new owner of Tinian Dynasty.

PICNIC TRASH FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Beer cans and other picnic trash are common sights at a beach in Chalan Kanoa area after a weekend. Many people have no regard for Saipan's anti-littering law.

Cape Air: We worked diligently to rectify issues

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Cape Air said it has worked diligently in response to the issues that they faced in their operations the past two years.

Responding to *Saipan Tribune* inquiries regarding the recent letter that Sens. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) and Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) sent to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Cape Air said they are currently reviewing the letter.

"We are in receipt of the letter from the senators, and are reviewing it in detail," Cape Air president Linda Markham said.

The Feb. 17 letter from the senators pointed out to the agency the federal regulations they believe United/Cape Air has violated during a "heavy maintenance period" between 2014 and 2015 during which hundreds of passengers flying to and from Guam was affected by a series of cancelled and delayed flights.

These regulations are "on time performance," "flight service notification," and "unrealistic scheduling."

The senators also pointed out in their letter that United Airlines, which is the code-share partner of Cape Air, would only step in to assist passengers when all five daily Cape Air flights were cancelled or when several flights were cancelled for two days or more.

They also added that the nine-month period was a very long time to be flying one plane.

With this, the senators said they are looking forward to receiving information on filing a consumer complaint against the two airlines.

"Cape Air, along with our partners at United Airlines, worked diligently to rectify the issues we encountered in 2014/2015. Our second aircraft was returned to operation in August 2015 after undergoing the required detailed inspection process," Markham said.

"With the two-aircraft operation in place, we have seen significant improvement of the flight reliability, and will continue to provide consistent service to the Guam, Saipan, and Rota communities," she added.

Internet impersonation now a crime in CNMI

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

"Electronic impersonation" is now a crime in the Commonwealth.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has signed Senate bill 19-64, now Public Law 19-33, last Feb. 11 to establish the crime of electronic impersonation and set penalties and fines ranging from $2,000 to $10,000 and a year to five years in jail.

Torres

The new law states that "e-personation" activities exist in the Commonwealth and that many have complained about people hacking into their social network profiles or creating a fake profile to impersonate other people.

"The people must be on notice that the internet cannot be used as a forum to harm, intimidate, threaten, or defraud other people," the bill states.

The law throws concern to the thieves, scam artists, or vengeful people who pretend to be someone they are not to engage in cyber-bullying, to defraud, and or to gain confidential information.

The law cites an example from 2011, in New Jersey, where a woman charged with identify theft allegedly used her ex-husband's personal information to create a Facebook page to impersonate him, a narcotics detective, and spread false admissions to drug use, hiring of prostitutes, and contracting sexual diseases.

The law also cites another landmark case of cyber-bullying where a Missouri parent created a MySpace account to taunt a 13-year-old neighbor who was a friend of her daughter with the professed love of an imaginary boy. The 13-year old committed suicide, after the mother, through the account, told the teenager that the, "The world would be a better place without you."

"This type of conduct is unacceptable and must be criminalized," the new law states.

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Coral reefs impacted by bleaching, disease outbreaks, among others

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A number of problems continue to plague the coral reefs in the Pacific.

In a report to the 35th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting in Washington, D.C, chair Fran Castro of the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee enumerated the issues faced by various areas.

"Coral bleaching from warming oceans, ocean acidification, Crown of Thorns Starfish outbreaks, ship groundings, coral disease outbreaks, invasive algae, land-based sources of pollution, and so many other things impact our coral reefs each day," Castro said.

"Thankfully, the winter season brought cooler waters and much needed reprieve for our coral reefs, many of which have suffered back-to-back years of bleaching. However, in areas like southeast Florida, the number of corals impacted by an unprecedented disease event continues to grow and the cause(s) of the disease has yet to be identified," she added.

For the CNMI, Castro reports that funding is needed for some of their priorities such as a Coral Reef Disturbance Response Plan as well as the removal of a derelict vessel in the Saipan Lagoon.

"In light of recent bleaching and typhoon impacts, a comprehensive, interagency coral reef disturbance response plan is necessary," Castro reports.

"F/V *Lady Carolina*, which ran aground during Typhoon Soudelor and was then knocked over during Tropical Storm Champi…continues to cause damage to an inshore patch reef in the Saipan Lagoon," she added.

Aside from the vessel, Castro said the typhoon has affected their projects and initiatives in the Commonwealth after it left the whole island without water and power.

"CNMI's Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality (BECQ) as well as partner agencies have had to focus on recovery efforts, which has delayed various projects and ongoing initiatives. Additional funding and logistical constraints have limited the CNMI's ability to conduct quantitative assessments of the damages incurred (particularly by Soudelor) in this past typhoon season," Castro said.

Castro called on the agencies to work together and added that they are excited to work toward "a final USCRTF Strategy that will serve as our roadmap for the next five years."

"We must stretch beyond the 'status quo' and work together, as federal agencies and jurisdictions, to make a difference now. The time is now and the opportunity lies with the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force," Castro said.

Liberation Day committee sticks with float entry fee

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 2016 Fourth of July Liberation Day committee will be sticking with the $100 entry fee for this year's float contest, which they hope would attract more than 20 entries. Application opens on April 4 and the deadline for submission of entries is on June 17.

Float sub committee chair Mariano Fajardo suggested in yesterday's meeting at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room that the fee be lowered to $50 in order to attract more groups to join the annual parade. Only 11 floats participated last year with the $100 entry fee.

Fajardo said he is hoping to invite the hotels and resorts on the island to join or have an entry in the float parade and contest. The high cost of renting lowboys, which is also used for floats, is the reason why Fajardo suggested in lowering the entry fee.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said that he would talk to several construction companies to either lend the lowboys or have it rented at a lower rate.

Aqua Resort Club, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, and Pacific Islands Club are the major hotels and resorts on Saipan.

Several typhoons caused the postponement of the Liberation Day parade last year that's why only few joined last year's parade and the cost of setting up a float are some of the reasons that the committee thought why some groups don't want to join the event.

But some committee members said that even a pickup truck could also be used as in the case of the Papago Lancherus, which won second place in last year's contest.

The cash prizes will be $4,000 for the top winner, while the second, third, and fourth placers will get $3,000, $2,000, and $1,000, respectively.

Last year, the Yapese community won the $4,000 top prize, while Choll A Bellu and the United Filipino Organization took home $2,000 and $1,000, respectively.

The 2016 Liberation Day committee is also reminding the public that they can still submit entries for the slogan contest in the 71st celebration of the World War II liberation. Entries must have a brief essay that is related to the significance of the anniversary's impact in the lives of the people of the CNMI.

The deadline of submission is before 4pm on Monday, Feb. 29, at the Saipan Mayor's Office or email your entries at ldcnmi@gmail.com. The winning slogan will get $500.

Bill regulating e-cigarettes signed into law

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed this month a law to prohibit electronic cigarettes where smoking is prohibited, regulate these cigarettes under tobacco control laws, and keep them out of the hands of minors under the age of 18.

Senate Bill 19-23 is now public law 19-32. It amends Commonwealth code to include "electronic cigarette and electronic nicotine delivery systems" under the definitions for "smoking" and "tobacco products" under current law.

The new law states that due to the lack of research on the overall health effects associated with the use of electronic cigarettes and its potential harm to the non-smoking community and children, it is necessary to prohibit and regulate them until further studies are conducted.

The law cites the support the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Association has shown for the regulation of electronic cigarettes.

"Electronic cigarettes have triggered a fierce debate among health experts who share the same goal of reducing the disease and death caused by tobacco, but disagree about whether electronic cigarettes make the problem better or worse," the bill states. (Dennis B. Chan)

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IN MIDST OF GOVT REVENUE NEEDS:

'Time for public to support casino tax'

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

A casino tax implemented on Best Sunshine International, Ltd. would be the answer to several funding and revenue problems in the Commonwealth, concerned citizen Glen Hunter believes.

According to Hunter, should a 35-percent casino tax be implemented, a "conservative estimate" would more than double the budget of the CNMI government.

"You're talking nearly $200 million in new revenues even if they continue to operate out of that mall (Best Sunshine Live)," Hunter said.

Basing on reports in Hong Kong, Hunter said, and assuming that 2.8 percent of their revenue stays with the casino, it would have about $50 million per month in gross revenue.

Hunter said this would mean $35 million for the CNMI in two months if there is a casino tax in place.

He added that this would resolve the retirees' 25 percent issue, the capital improvement fund needs of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the 10 percent Typhoon Soudelor match.

"If the CUC needs money, the Retirement Fund needs money, the government needs to generate revenue, they need to stop sitting on their butts and pass this casino tax. It's time for the public to get behind that and it's time for the public to rise up and to say that it be taxed properly," Hunter said.

Currently, according to the Commonwealth Casino Commission, the casino is required to pay the Business Gross Revenue Tax (BGRT) on their Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR: win minus payout), $15 million every year for a total of 40 years for their exclusive license fee, to pay $20 million a year into a special Community Chest Fund, Infrastructure Impact Fee (Developer's Tax), and other environmental and regulatory fees, including the $3 million Commonwealth Casino Regulatory Fee (CCRF) fund.

The commission noted that these contributions of the casino to the CNMI economy, along with other community contributions and donations, are "huge and quite substantial."

Hunter said more revenues were promised because of the casino, however, there was only minimal difference on the budget of the CNMI despite the casino making profit.

"Why the hell is this [Torres] administration and this Legislature unable to properly tax the casino? We embraced a new industry, the casino industry, even though the voters twice before rejected it," Hunter said.

"They can more than double the cost of soda in a one afternoon session with no foresight, no oversight and no public hearing, God forbid they can't even pass a simple 35 percent casino gross gaming revenue tax?" he added, referring to the Sugar Tax.

Hunter reiterated that there is "no casino in the world that has no casino tax."

"It's the midterm election cycle and we hope that anyone who doesn't support the casino tax, I hope they get booted out of office," Hunter said.

HOCOG

From Page 1

Soudelor last year.

"It is with profound gratitude that I express our people's appreciation for your assistance during or time of humanitarian need," Hocog said. "The CNMI continues to welcome your citizens as part of our growing community. We are one people connected by the ocean, not separated by it.

"Collaboration between our islands is key for all of us," Hocog added.

Palau President Tommy Remengesau hosted the summit that brought leaders like Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine, Federated States of Micronsia President Peter Christian, Chuuk Gov. Johnson Elimo, Kosrae Gov. Caarson Sigrah, Pohnpei Gov. Marcelo Peterson, and Yap Gov. Tony Ganngiyan together to discuss issues of tourism, the environment, and sustainability.

The Micronesian summit is an annual meeting of the governors and presidents of Micronesia, which includes the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap of FSM.

COVENANT

From Page 1

The commission would review whether the CNMI desires to continue its relationship with the United States or if another political status would suit its goals of self-government.

This was the fourth hearing on the bill and while most of the concerns were with the "aggressiveness" or the "one-sidedness" of federal policies, the Covenant, the document negotiated by the founding fathers of the Commonwealth, was also questioned.

John Tagabuel, executive director of the Carolinian Affairs Office, supported the bill as it would launch a political discussion and "education" on the CNMI's relationship with the United States under the Covenant.

Tagabuel said people "know very little" about the Covenant" and "why" they are under the sovereignty of the United States.

"These are not clear to me and especially to the Carolinians…whom I represent," he said. He noted that the resources of land and air were not given to the United States but submerged lands were. "Why? I don't know," he added.

Tagabuel pointed that the U.S. President by a "stroke of a pen" took hundreds of miles of submerged lands, or the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, away from the local people. He asked if the Covenant gave this right for a president for this action.

He said the U.S. is "treating us like a U.S. territory" like Guam or American Samoa, who are "non-governing political entities," he said. This treatment makes the Sec. 103 of the Covenant, on the right to local self-government, "meaningless."

"Are we are a territory of the U.S.?" Tagabuel asked. The bill in question would provide the people "greater understanding" so that future generations can "attain true self government that is respected and protected," he said.

Daniel Quitugua, vice president of the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., supported the bill and spent time lamenting on the habits of "procrastination" practiced by post-Covenant government leaders that pitted the government and people in a "disadvantageous position" and cost them "millions of dollars" since the time of the Covenant.

Quitugua, referring to the U.S. takeover of local immigration a handful of years ago, said instead of correcting immigration "deficiencies" warned by U.S. Congress then, leaders gave the "usual action of procrastination and wavering."

This, over "remedial and corrective action," he said, speaking to local labor and immigration issues that drew national attention years ago.

Quitugua said this "11th hour" action was not an effective use of power.

He said procrastination was a political disease that "we cannot cure ourselves from."

"We are our own worst enemy," Quitugua said, but also pointed to the "arrogance" of the federal government to unilaterally seek land for "destructive uses" must be intervened.

He said the political status review must assess the U.S.-local relationship and present "political options."

He suggested a joint resolution from the Legislature be sent to the U.S. President regarding this review of political status.

"It is not anti-American" but "democratic" and "embracing of the American dream" to raise these concerns, he said.

Liana Hofshcneider, a founding member of the Matua Council on Chamorro Advancement, drew attention to the U.S. and international agreements that led to the closure of the CNMI's garment industry that affected not only the local government but the programs and services they provided to the local people.

"Those have been taken away in a one sided federal policy," she said.

The council leader also pointed to the 200-mile exclusive economic zone that she called the "refrigerator" of ocean resources and submerged lands of the people. And also directed concern to how a U.S. president "unilaterally and one-sidedly asserted the Antiquities Act" to "take away the rights of our indigenous people" referring to the three northern islands as part of the Trench Monument.

Still, she conceded that issues of immigration control were largely "90 percent our fault." She added, though, that the employees who worked at local immigration were forced to transfer from jobs they had worked for more than 10 to 20 years.

"If this happened in the state of Georgia, there would be repercussions," she said.

Richard Seman, secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, spoke on his personal behalf as one who was 16 years old when the Covenant was enacted and one who has married and has had children since that time.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

VETERAN

From Page 1

at a baseball park where he was working.

"We got married before the *Miami* was finished being built," Mina said, "As soon as it was finished, he sailed away."

Mina recalls how difficult it was back then when his husband had to serve the country during the war. At the time, Mina was finishing college.

"It was very difficult," Mina said, "My sister saw me I was in class, holding on to one of his shirts, just holding it."

Back then, mail just took way too long to arrive and keep in touch.

"Forever it seems," Mina says, "And by the time he answered me, you know, it wasn't very fast."

"When he was in battle, he didn't write," she added.

Mina recalled how Richard's ship would go to different places during the war wherever they needed it.

"I didn't know where Saipan was until I looked it up on the map and he was fighting here," Mina said, "It looked so small."

Going home

Despite the hardships of being far apart, Mina and Richard were among the lucky ones.

In 1945, before the war was fully over, the USS *Miami* got damaged by a typhoon—giving a chance for the couple to reunite.

"Of course I was happy because they sent it back to the states," Mina said.

She said it was such a relief to get a call from him that he was finally able to return to the states, safe.

"It was so good to know he was safe," Mina said.

"When he was coming at the end of May, I called my boss and said I'm leaving, my husband's coming home."

After a year and a month apart, Mina met Richard in Chicago and as Richard's ship needed repairs, he was stationed in New York City where the couple stayed until the end of the war.

"I'm very proud, very, very proud of him. He did his part to win the war," Mina said.

Little did the couple know, Saipan's role and their role to Saipan did not end with the war.

Their daughter, Jill Derickson, who became somewhat of a navigator herself after setting out for the Pacific on a sailboat, eventually made Saipan her home.

"Who knew she was going to live here?" Mina said.

In 1999, both of them visited the island with Richard finally setting foot on land.

"He never got off the ship the whole time he was here. So he never stepped on Saipan until he and I came to visit Jill," Mina said.

The couple fell in love with the island. Since Richard's passing in 2006, Mina has been visiting Saipan every winter.

Handkerchief drawings

While Richard has done his part for Saipan during the war, Mina has given something to the island as well.

She was able to bring back to the island some handkerchiefs that was a part of history.

"I met this man and when he heard I was going to Saipan, he said he was there during the war. He told me he was in the first landing and he was lucky to be alive and then he was stationed here. And he made friends with the Japanese prisoner who was an artist and had some colored pencils and wanted to draw but nothing to draw on," Mina said.

The serviceman, Jack, then gave the Japanese prisoner some linen handkerchiefs to draw on.

The pieces of cloth where sceneries of Japan and other memories were drawn on now hang in the CNMI Museum.

Indebted

For David "Uncle Dave" Sablan, who was 12 years old when the invasion happened, he is grateful to those who served the Americans during the war and played an important role in what the CNMI is today.

When the USS *Miami* and the rest of the American ships arrived on Saipan, Sablan and his family were hiding in a cave for three weeks with only sugar canes to get by.

"We were in a cave. And as we looked westward, the whole horizon was covered with battleships. Morning of the 15th, I said, here is when everything changes, our whole lives are going to change because those ships are not leaving until they accomplished their mission," Sablan recalls.

"During the invasion of Saipan, we did not know what to think of the Americans," he added.

Turns out, he said, the Americans were better at treating them than the Japanese at the time. And as the story goes, Saipan was liberated from the Japanese and became the Commonwealth that it is today.

"We are happy with the result of the invasion, and I'm happy that I'm still alive today. I'm happy to have met Mina whose husband was involved in saving the folks during the invasion here in Saipan. We want to thank him, God bless him and we want to thank Mina for being part of Saipan," Sablan said.

Plea deal for man who staged 3-hour 'drama' at store vacated

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday vacated a plea agreement that he previously accepted in the case against Alfred Jacob Teregeyo Kaipat, a 30-year-old who allegedly grabbed two machetes from Feng Hua Store in San Jose, threatened to kill his wife, then barricaded himself on the third floor of the store's building before surrendering himself to police after three hours.

Camacho vacated the plea deal after hearing the arguments by the prosecution and the defense counsel.

The judge said the prosecution and the defense may re-submit another plea agreement.

Camacho set a change of plea hearing on March 1, 2016 at 9am.

On Oct. 28, 2015, Kaipat, who appeared with counsel assistant public defender Tillman Clark, pleaded guilty to the offenses of two counts of violation of protective order and one count of theft.

Camacho accepted Kaipat's guilty plea and the plea agreement.

Camacho then set the sentencing for Dec. 2, 2015.

At the scheduled Dec. 2, 2015 sentencing hearing, the hearing was postponed because Kaipat was going to serve at least one year.

The judge requested for additional sentencing briefs and continued the sentencing hearing for Feb. 10, 2016.

At the said hearing, assistant attorney general Emily Cohen and assistant public defender Tillman Clark both discovered that they understood that the plea agreement would allow the court to determine the amount of jail to be served, which was in a range between a year and two years.

Camacho understood the terms of the plea agreement to be a recommendation, not binding.

Clark and Cohen explained that there is only a grammatical error in the plea agreement.

The judge then reset the sentencing for yesterday.

In Kaipat's brief in support of the plea agreement, Clark requested the court to amend the plea deal to correct a grammatical error, continue with the sentencing, and follow the intentions of both parties.

Clark said the plea agreement purports to be submitted pursuant to Rule 11(e)(1)(B), which taken on its face would suggest that the details of the sentence would be a "recommendation" to the judge and not binding, as opposed to Rule 11(e)(1)(C), in which the parties agree to a specific sentence.

Clark said both parties agree that this was a grammatical error.

The defense lawyer also noted that during a lengthy discussion of sentencing guidelines at the Dec. 2 sentencing hearing, Camacho clarified that the continuance of the sentencing date would not prejudice the defendant because the absolute minimum amount of jail he could be sentenced to was one year in prison.

This, Clark said, indicates that Camacho was acting under full awareness of the fact that he had accepted a plea under Rule 11(e)(1)(C) in which he was bound by the language of the agreement and where the absolute minimum Kaipat could serve was one year.

In the government's brief, assistant attorney general Cohen said Camacho did not inform Kaipat that he had no right to withdraw his plea if the court did not follow the government's recommendation.

Based on these facts, Cohen said, it seemed apparent to the government that the court interpreted the terms of the plea agreement in the same fashion as the government and the defendant.

Cohen said if the court decides it will not accept the plea agreement with the enumerated terms, the proper remedy is for the court to reject the plea agreement and allow the defendant to withdraw his plea.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on July 25, 2015 on Saipan, Kaipat went to his wife Yanyou Kaipat's store in Dandan, made contact with her, then called her on her phone several hours later, while a court's protective order prohibiting him from doing so was in place. On that day, he also stole two machetes from Feng Hua Market.

'Woman in fake marriages has $70K in explained income'

Qiong Lu Pua, a woman who was slapped with a 12-month and one day imprisonment for orchestrating two sham marriages so that her brother and friend could obtain green cards, has $70,000 in unexplained income, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell H. Lorfing, counsel for the U.S. government, disclosed that Pua has $70,000 in explained income deposited in her account in 2014 and 2015.

Lorfing said with her money, the defendant has the financial means to flee.

The federal prosecutor briefly discussed Pua's alleged unexplained income in the U.S. government's opposition to Pua's motion for her release pending the outcome of her appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Lorfing said the defendant's ties to a foreign country, extensive contacts in China, and the significant sums of unexplained income suggest the real possibility that she is a flight risk.

The prosecutor said while Pua has remained at liberty throughout the trial, she has an additional incentive to flee now that she is facing incarceration for the next 12 months and because her daughter has recently relocated to China.

The defendant maintains citizenship with the People's Republic of China

Lorfing said Pua has not raised a substantial issue of law or fact that is likely to result in the reversal of her conviction or a sentence that is shorter than the time necessary to resolve her appeal.

Pua is appealing the Ninth Circuit to reverse the U.S. District Court for the NMI's denial of her motion for a judgment of acquittal.

She is asking the Ninth Circuit to also reverse the federal court's findings and application of the sentencing guidelines and the 12-month and one day prison sentence imposed on her.

Pua, through counsel Mark Hanson, also requested the District Court to allow her release pending the result of her appeal.

Pua was sentenced last Jan. 29, but allowed out of custody on conditions pending notification by the U.S. Marshal Service that the Bureau of Prisons has designated a facility and that she is to report to begin serving her term of incarceration.

Hanson argued, among other things, that in light of the nature and substance of the issues raised on appeal, the court should grant Pua's continued release pending the Ninth Circuit's decision.

Hanson said Pua does not pose a risk of flight and is not a danger to the community, as she was not convicted of a crime of violence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Small craft and high surf advisories still up

Acting governor Francisco M. Borja has extended the small craft and high surf advisories in the CNMI to 6am this morning due to the large trade wind swell that maintained hazardous surf along east-facing reefs last night.

According to information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center, east winds of 15 to 20 knots with gusts to around 25 knots and seas of 8 to 10 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft. The highest seas are expected east of the CNMI.

It added that the public should expect hazardous surf of 10 to 12 feet along east facing reefs tonight. Surf is expected to fall below hazardous levels early Thursday morning.

Borja is thus advising the general public and inexperience mariners—especially those operating smaller vessels—to avoid navigating in these conditions and take extra precautionary measures on entering and leaving harbor and inlets. Avoid venturing into the water along exposed reefs and beaches especially those facing East exposures as rip currents will be life threatening. ***(PR)***

Community again invited to join MMAC

JON PEREZ

Marianas March Against Cancer chair Geri Dela Cruz, fourth left, co-chair Chris Concepcion, seventh left, Commonwealth Cancer Association program manager Juan L. Babauta, right, and other members of the MMAC organizing committee met with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, fifth left, regarding the preparation for this year's MMAC event in May.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the 2016 Marianas March Against Cancer are inviting families, students, businesses, government agencies, and non-profit groups to attend the annual event set on May 13 and 14 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

MMAC chair Geri Dela Cruz said all proceeds that come from donations by sponsors and other individuals will go directly to fund the projects of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

"We encouraged everyone to join us again in our campaign. Cancer has affected many of us in the CNMI. We either know someone who was diagnosed with cancer or we have a family member who is suffering from cancer. Funds raised will go to CCA, which provides assistance to cancer patients," said Dela Cruz in yesterday's presentation at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

"We have always been thankful for all the help given by the Saipan Mayors Office, which is one of the longest partners of the campaign against cancer. They always go beyond logistics in terms of providing assistance to this event," added Dela Cruz.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said that his office is always open to help events or projects that are for a good cause.

"We will always work with you guys. If you always ask for our assistance, we'll be here to help. Being a cancer survivor myself, I would like to do my share by going out there to give information to help other survivors," added Apatang, who was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma or renal cancer in 1998.

CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta said part of their program is to issue vouchers to assist cancer patients aside from information dissemination and monthly meetings with other survivors.

CCA also provides other support services and serves as chief advocate for cancer issues in the Commonwealth.

"We provide education campaign on how to raise awareness on cancer and some ways on how to prevent it. The vouchers issued help cancer patients with medical costs of treatment," said Babauta.

"We are again asking for the community's support. Proceeds of the event goes to a good cause," Babauta added.

For more information, email MMAC@gmail.com or visit CCA's website at www.ccamarianas.org.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-16-2331

For: ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING & LANDSCAPING DESIGN SERVICES ON For PASEO DE MARIANAS IMPROVEMENTS

Closing Date: **March 14, 2016** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ JAMES NELSON
MVA Vice Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Procurement and Supply

SPECIAL NOTICE

General Contractors, Suppliers, and Interested Firms

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting general contractors, suppliers, and interested firms to attend an informational conference pertaining to USEPA Grant Funded Water & Wastewater projects that CUC will procure in this fiscal year. Overall, these projects include construction work, repair work, and supply of goods and equipment on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian.

Proposed Projects for Fiscal Year 2016 (Saipan, Tinian & Rota):

- Renovation of Wastewater Lift Station SR1
- Rota Water System Improvement
- Renovation of Wastewater Lift Stations S6 & S10
- Upgraded Pump Controls for Wastewater Lift Station S3
- Tinian Water System Improvements
- Sewer Service Lines
- Improvements to the Kagman Water System
- Water Main Replacement in Capitol Hill
- Water Main Replacement in As Lito
- Replacement of the NMC Water Reservoir
- Water Main Replacement in Gualo Rai
- Repair of Stand by Generators
- Water Main Replacement-Herman's Bakery
- Water Main Replacement in Chalan Kiya
- Water Main Extension on Sailing Drive
- Design and Construction of Improvements to the Maui Well Shafts

Conference Information:

Place : CUC Conference Room
3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950
Date : March 3, 2016
Time : 10:00 a.m. ChST
Contact : Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer,
e-mail address: manny.sablan@cucgov.org
John Riegel, Senior Engineer, e-mail address: john.riegel@cucgov.org

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
(Amended)

No.: 2016-01(a)

It is the policy of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission that the personnel system shall be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution and Federal Civil Rights Laws regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

Position: Executive Director
Opening Date: 02/11/16 **Closing Date:** 02/29/16
Salary: $65,000.00 per annum **Pay Level:** Ungraded
Location: Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, Tinian, MP 96952 USA

Duties: Serves as Chief Administrative Officer for the Commission. Responsible for maintaining efficient operations, organizing and planning the wok for the Commission, and ensuring that the Commission acts in accordance with the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989. Responsible for recruiting key staff members, developing administrative procedures and internal controls. Initiates investigations of applicants for casino licenses and makes recommendations to the Commission based on the findings. Attends all Commission meetings, prepares annual performance report for the Commission. Reviews internal financials and operating reports of the Commission's activities and any other duties as specified in the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989, or by the Commission.

Qualifications: Any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a degree in public administration, business administration or related field, and five (5) years substantial experience in administrative office management and staff supervision in a public or private organization. Experience in personnel and fiscal management, procurement and supply, and contract negotiation and other managerial skills are an additional plus. Pass the pre-employment drug testing and other applicable standards, pursuant to the TCGCC Personnel Regulations.

Special Conditions of Employment: Employment will be undertaken pursuant to TCGCC Personnel Regulations including, but not limited to, Article 3: Section 3-108(1): "There are special conditions and standards of employment which are considered implicit to successful performance in certain positions. These conditions may relate to unusual hours of work, physical or medical standards, maintenance of a driver's license and health certificate, availability during non-standard working hours, or need to frequently travel."

INTERESED INDIVIDUALS MAY OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION AT THE TCGCC MAIN OFFICE IN TINIAN. THE COMPLETED EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, RESUME, SCHOOL DIPOLMA(S) OR TRANSCRIPTS, AND POLICE CLEARANCE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PERSONNEL SPECIALIST OR ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE TCGCC MAIN OFFICE WHILE POSITION IS STILL OPEN.

TCGCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EXTEND OR CANCEL THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, WITH OR WITHOUT CAUSE.

Best Sunshine's CSR holds presentation at Rotary Club

Following through with the company's commitment to initiate participation in viable beautification projects throughout the islands, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. CSR directors Rita Chong and Geri Dela Cruz held a presentation before members of the Rotary Club of Saipan last Feb. 23 at the Giovani's restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Delineating the accomplishments of the company's corporate social responsibility, Chong and Dela Cruz delivered to the non-profit organization the objectives and current projects involved in BSI's self-initiated Village Pride Project. Totaling 13 villages served henceforward, the CSR team also discussed the future goal of the project, which is to encourage the villagers to lead in each of their beautification efforts.

Introducing the CSR group encompassing the Village Pride Project, Dela Cruz says, "We are a group of home-grown individuals dedicated solely for the social good of the CNMI, passionate about bringing about the goal of the *inafamaolek* and *tipiyeew* pride."

Chong adds, "*Inafamaolek* and *tipiyeew* are Chamorro and Refaluwasch words which means to take care of each other and to preserve unity. Our goal is to instill and preserve that pride as our corporate vision when we got together to create this department under Best Sunshine. We wanted to ensure that our mission reflects our island's culture, which works to serve, strengthen and build a better CNMI for all the world to see."

Rotary Club of Saipan president Curtis Dancoe, says, "I think to see this CSR group come together and what it represents in our community is something that we need. Certainly, we are really appreciative of all the services Best Sunshine provides in beautifying the community villages and we honor Best Sunshine's organization. We are synonymous in the same respect on what the Rotary does in the community and we hope we can work on some projects together in the future. I've seen what Best Sunshine's CSR team is doing whenever I'm driving around the island. We rely a lot on our government to do these types of improvement, but to see it come from a private company such as Best Sunshine shows how they're taking a lot of pride and care in our community." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rotary Club of Saipan president Curtis Dancoe alongside Best Sunshine CSR directors Geri Dela Cruz and Rita Chong allot time for Q&A shortly after the presentation.

CUC sets temporary power interruption for Chalan Kiya

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a temporary service interruption for power customers in portions of Chalan Kiya this weekend as linemen strengthen a portion of the transmission and distribution infrastructure along the Kiya 4 feeder.

On Saturday, Feb. 27, CUC will temporarily interrupt power to Chalan Kiya Dr., Amariyu Ln., Asut Pl., Agaga Ln., Betde Pl., Plata Dr., Bwerh Pl., Parapar Pl., Nguus Dr., Chikita Pl., Penta Ln., Tinta Lp., Rasu Ln., Kachang Ln., Tumu Ln., Mikulot Dr., Murena Pl., Attilong Ln., Saipan Health Clinic, and the Duenas well, while linemen replace two rotten power poles, pull five spans of primary conductor and install three cutouts in the area. The five-hour project will begin at 7:30am and power will be restored to the area by 12:30pm.

For more information, please contact the 24-hour CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/).

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government. The utility provides electric power, water and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged Garapan Fishing Dock and CK Dist #4 Lally Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

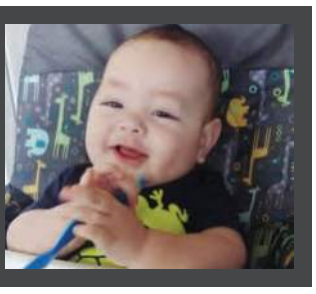
Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 1st birthday to Luke Joseph Villagomez! Blessings and greetings from Grandpa Luis and Grandma Maria Villagomez and family from Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



~~One day~~, I'll soar the skies.

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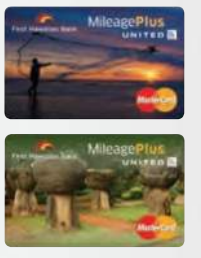

Origin	Destination	Discounted fares with taxes and surcharge	MIN STAY	MAX STAY	Promo Code	Outbound travel	Last ticket purchase date
Guam/Saipan	**Hong Kong**	Economy starting at $538	2 Days	30 Days	FHB16A	01 Feb 16 – 31 May 16 or 16 Sep 16 – 14 Dec 16	02 Mar 16
		Business starting at $1933	NIL	12 Months		01 Feb 16 – 31 Dec 16	
Guam/Saipan	**Palau**	Economy starting at $525	2 Days	30 Days	FHB16A	01 Feb 16 – 31 Dec 16	02 Mar 16
		Business starting at $1035	NIL	12 Months			

Ticketing Requirement: Tickets must be issued within 3 days after reservations are made or at least 7 days prior to scheduled departure, whichever is earlier, but no later than March 2, 2016. Requirements based on fare rules. Fares are subject to change.

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For United ticketing agent, refer to CORE Reservations > Promos and Communications > FHB.

2016 CNMI-PSS Multiple School Unit JROTC Drill Meet

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Public School System associate commissioner for Student & Support Service Yvonne R. Pangelinan delivers her welcome remarks during last Saturday's 2016 CNMI PSS Multiple School Unit JROTC Drill Meet at the Marianas High School grounds.

PSS Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, right, was among those who enjoyed watching the annual drill meet.

The JROTC was celebrating its 100th year.

The MHS Dolphin Battalion reports to the evaluators for their turn in the Armed Inspection.

Kagman High School's Ayuyu Battalion awaits instructions for their Armed Inspection.

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion's Unarmed Exhibition unit delighted the crowd with their performance.

Members of the Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School Chamorro Buck Battalion pose with their trophies after winning most of the awards in the unarmed category.

The Chamorro Buck Battalion waits for their turn to be evaluated in the Unarmed Inspection.

The Manta Ray Battalion's Armed Exhibition unit performs their routine.

Evaluators talk to members of the Tinian Junior Senior High School Stallion Battalion during their Armed Inspection.

YOSI magazine shines light on young people in Solomon Islands

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—The latest issue of the Youth of Solomon Islands (*YOSI*) magazine features an inclusive participation theme and showcases stories of young people with disabilities.

Available now, the third issue of *YOSI* also contains a special feature on Malaita province, where the Pacific Community (SPC) and its partners are rolling out the popular Youth@Work initiative this month.

Included are stories from Malaita of young people who have struggled with their small savings to start small businesses and used their skills to help their communities and families.

YOSI provides a platform where young, talented artists can share their stories through art forms, as it welcomes submissions to be featured in upcoming issues.

SPC's Youth@Work coordinator, Rose Martin, said she was impressed with another job well done, in particular the response of youths who contributed to the magazine.

"I am proud to witness this magazine, as intended, becoming an avenue for voicing out aspirational stories either about, or written by, youth."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youth from the Solomon Islands show their copies of *YOSI* magazine, which provides a platform where young, talented artists can share their stories through art forms

The magazine is currently seeking contributions from young people aged 13 to 30, and is running a competition for feature writers, journalists and photographers. Winners of the competition will have their submissions published in *YOSI* and receive a writer's prize pack. The deadline for submissions is 4 March 2016.

Martin added that she would like to see this not only as an ongoing practice, but as a regular new avenue for youth to publically share their views, their stories and their expressive natures on topics of importance to youth of the Solomon Islands.

"I would like to encourage youth to tell their stories in the next issues as it would be our honor to have their stories printed," Martin said.

After reading the magazine, Dailen Derol, 27, said he really enjoyed even just browsing through the material and liked the story of the young guitar instructor the most.

YOSI magazine hard copies are available at the Youth@Work office now temporarily located on Tandai Highway a little bit beyond Good View shop while renovations of their Art Gallery office are taking place. Call (+677) 25278 for more information.

Youth@Work is implemented by SPC, in partnership with the Solomon Islands Ministry of National Unity, Peace and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs. Youth@Work is an initiative to tackle youth unemployment in the Solomon Islands and is funded by the Queens Young Leader's Programme in Honiara and the Australian Government's aid program in the provinces, with assistance from its partner ministries. ***(SPC)***

Singers serenade tourists at PDM

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Micronesian singers rendered the standard guitar-ukulele-ocean wave beat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Korean singers sang Hanguk songs.

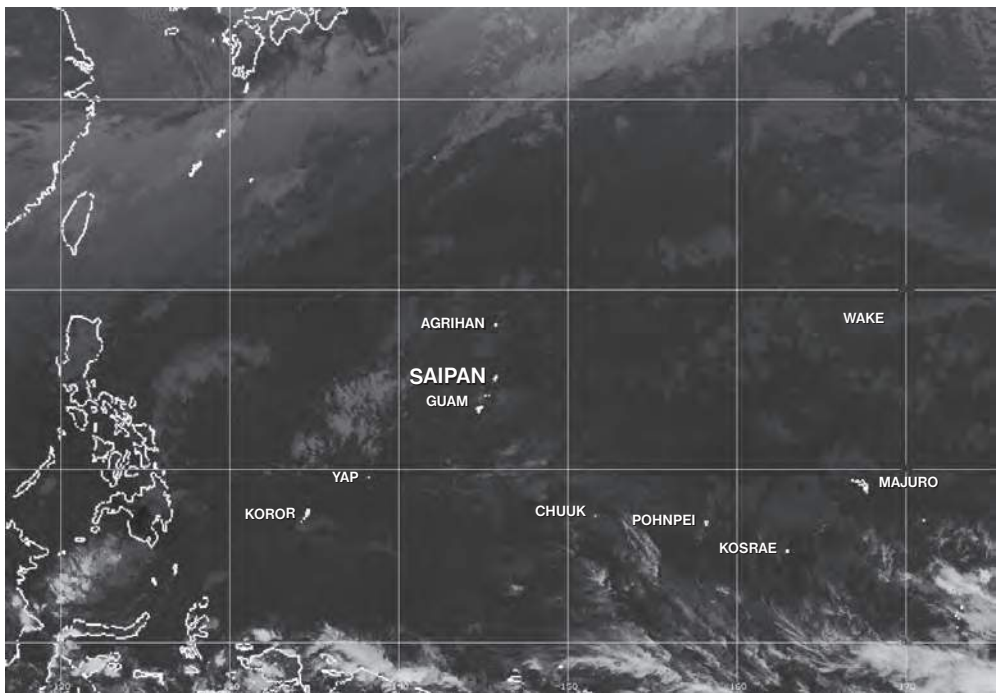
Those promenading at Paseo de Marianas are often treated by the voices of organized groups and church singers. This past week, we were treated with the voices of Micronesian singers as well as young Korean singers. The Micronesian singers rendered the standard guitar-ukulele-ocean wave beat. The Koreans sang Hanguk songs, did an English one and a religious hymn to buttress their witness. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches southwestward from 25N138E to beyond 130E at 21N. Clouds and patchy rain are along and up to 50 miles northwest of the shear line. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers north of Yap between 16N and 10N from 137E to 141E. Moderate to fresh trade winds dominate weather all across Micronesia with patchy areas of scattered showers mainly near Chuuk between 12N and 8N from 147E to 157E and from Pohnpei to north of Kosrae between 10N and 7N from 157E to 168E. A trade-wind disturbance near the date line is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near and east of Tarawa between 6N and the equator from 170E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼62
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼21
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲60	▼56
Honolulu	Showers	▲78	▼67
London	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼30
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83	▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼58
Miami	Thundershowers	▲83	▼62
New York	Rain	▲56	▼52
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼36
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼33
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼32
Rome	Thundershowers	▲63	▼50
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼53
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼23
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼33
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲63	▼49

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Monday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:23 PM	8:01 AM
Friday	9:10 PM	8:39 AM
Saturday	9:57 PM	9:18 AM
Sunday	10:44 PM	9:57 AM
Monday	11:33 PM	10:38 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 22, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

10-month-old baby among those presumed dead in Fiji cyclone

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A 10-month-old baby is among those missing and presumed dead Wednesday from the massive cyclone that hit Fiji after the boy's parents told a local television station they lost hold of him amid ferocious winds and floodwaters that rose to their necks.

The death toll from Cyclone Winston has risen to 42. Another four people are listed as missing, including the infant on Koro Island, where at least 10 people have died.

The cyclone tore through the Pacific Island chain over the weekend with winds that reached 177 miles (285 kilometers) per hour, making it the strongest storm in Fiji's recorded history.

The boy's father Alifereti Samu told Fiji One Television that they ran from the coastal home where they were sheltering and were expecting the winds but not the huge seas.

"When the winds began to rise, we then ran for safety," he said, adding they tried to keep their son above water.

"The water level was up to my neck," Samu said. "The house began to fall and waves began to pound on us."

He said their son was their firstborn.

"We still haven't found him. We believe he has been taken out to sea," he told the network. "We are at peace with the thought that he has found eternal life."

Government spokesman Ewan Perrin confirmed the parents' account.

"Basically the baby was lost during the flooding," Perrin said. "One of the parents was unable to hold onto the child and it was washed away."

Perrin said authorities have a good grasp now on the extent of the destruction from Cyclone Winston after getting aerial images from the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He said they hope to begin distributing 20 satellite phones soon to places still without communication links.

He said that within a few days of flooding, mosquitoes start to breed so authorities are urging people not to leave standing water anywhere in order to prevent an increase in illnesses such as dengue fever.

Fiji's Disaster Management Minister Inia Seruiratu said in a briefing that the government was working to restore electricity and running water to many areas. He said a lack of reliable communications had proved to be a serious challenge.

"Fiji has suffered a terrible blow, and this rebuilding process won't happen overnight," he said.

Karen Allen, the head of UNICEF in the Pacific, said the priority was to get food, water and kerosene for cooking to the thousands of people staying in emergency shelters.

She said many people in the shelters are devastated.

"They're crying, they're stressed, they're upset, they don't know what tomorrow will bring," she said.

Sanjogeeta Kiran, right, with her sister Sulva Kiran, second left, and her children Shivendera, left, and Raajeen, sit amid the debris of their home in RakiRaki, Fiji, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016, after cyclone Winston ripped through the island nation. AP

Lecture on Ritidian archaeological research set for next Thursday

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council cordially invites the public to a presentation by visiting archaeologist Dr. Mike Carson that will be held at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club on March 3 from 6pm to 8 pm.

Carson will share the results of his recent archaeological research at the Ritidian (Litekyan) Archaeological Site on the northernmost tip of Guam, which holds a continuous record of 3,500 years of cultural history of the Mariana Islands.

This site, now a part of the Ritidian Unit of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge, is well known for its many painted images inside caves, as well as for the remains of a latte village last occupied in the 1600s during the time of early Spanish contact.

Beneath the surface, the site also possesses deep and ancient layers dating back 3,500 years, when the Mariana Islands were first inhabited by people coming from Southeast Asia.

These layers possess a wide variety of ceramic, bone, stone, and shell artifacts including unique types associated with the earliest settlement of the island.

Carson's research provides a look into what life was like at the site at different points of time.

The archaeological evidence shows how people adjusted to the changing conditions of sea level and their environment, how they built different kinds of houses and villages, and how they lived in their evolving landscape over more than three thousand years.

Carson is a visiting Associate Professor of Archaeology at the University of Guam and a faculty of the Australian National Museum.

Carson and his wife, Dr. Hsiao-chun Hung, have authored several published works relating to their research including "First Settlement of Remote Oceania: Earliest Sites in the Marianas."

This presentation is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council as a part of its ongoing Community Lecture Series. It is open to the public and free of charge.

For more information about this upcoming event, call council staff at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 39

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Why the UK needs the EU

London's outspoken Mayor Boris Johnson rattled his Conservative Party leadership on Sunday by urging that voters in a June referendum pull the United Kingdom out of the European Union. But they would be better off following the advice of Johnson's fellow Tory, Prime Minister David Cameron, who argues that the costs of splitting from the EU would greatly outweigh any benefits.

Though far from the "United States of Europe" envisioned by some, the 28-member EU has successfully knitted formerly hostile countries into union that has improved the lives of ordinary Europeans, including Britons who live in, travel to and do business with other European countries. Membership also has helped to turn London into Europe's financial center.

Paradoxically, it also eases tensions within the United Kingdom. Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's first minister, has warned that if the UK withdraws from the EU, Scots might decide that "the only way to guarantee our EU membership is to be independent." In Northern Ireland, Catholics who long for a united Ireland can comfort themselves with the fact that both the UK and the Irish Republic are joined together in the EU.

The risk to the EU, meanwhile, is that the UK's withdrawal might tempt other healthy economies to follow suit. That could be a crippling blow to a union already struggling with a metastasizing refugee crisis, debt-laden economies and slowing global growth.

The UK joined what was then known as the European Economic Community in 1973, and two years later voters ratified that decision in a referendum. But "Euroskepticism"—rooted in geography and cultural prejudice—has been exacerbated in recent years by exaggerated complaints about meddlesome directives from "Eurocrats" in the EU's offices in Brussels and an influx of immigrants and workers from Eastern Europe.

Last week Cameron secured changes in Britain's relationship with the EU, including the right to limit some government benefits for migrants from other EU countries and a recognition that the UK isn't covered by language in the Treaty of Rome that contemplates an "ever closer union among the peoples of Europe." The changes are mostly symbolic and ratify what was already a distinct status for the UK; for example, the UK has not followed France, Germany and other major nations in adopting the Euro as its currency. Yet the modifications could disarm opposition to continued membership.

Some pro-withdrawal Britons emphasize the kingdom's other connections, such as the NATO alliance and the "special relationship" with the United States. They should consider the words of President Obama, who last year said that "having the UK in the EU gives us much greater confidence about the strength of the transatlantic union."

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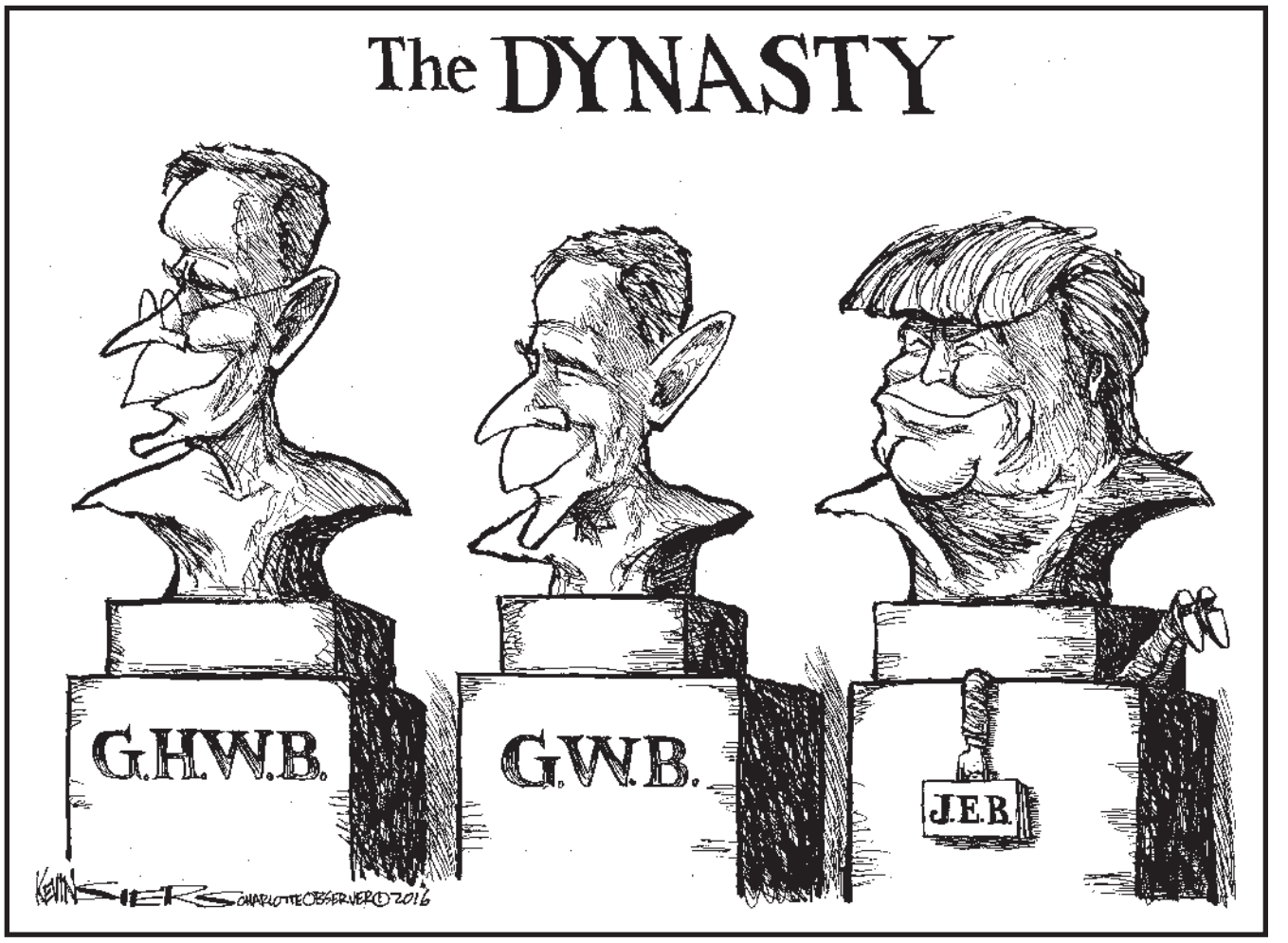


The profound humanity of choice

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The Egyptians noticed that the sun sets down before dusk and rises again at dawn; they created the Rah Sun story ascending into the skies to rest after the day underneath the Nile to rise again completing a 24-hour cycle. That metaphor has been transformed many times over. The Greeks took it into Mt. Olympus, renamed a menagerie of spirits led by Zeus as the head honcho of warring forces, like humans in their full pettiness and glory.

The language of profound humanity has been coached in the metaphor of sky-watching ever since; the lingo of "theos" (Zeus, Deux) in the Middle Ages simply made what was natural super. Today, in the absence of a language that affirms finitude and ordinary humanity without deux machina, we relegate our profound awareness of identity and vocation in the clothe of eternity in time. To speak of a wonderful feeling is to relate what is "heavenly".

Undifferentiated metaphor and literalism has been the bane of human cognition and articulation. In the west, Augustine's "City of God" and "City of Man," recognized the separation, though it is clear that the language of one is also the veiled meaning of the other, affirmed in Thomas Aquinas' "natural" and "supernatural" dichotomy.

In the late '60s, the Ecumenical Institute of Chicago reinstated the monastic vows of old and in the triune tradition of the Christian faith, charted the categories of the Journey (Being as the intensification of Knowing and Doing), social consciousness labeled as the corporates (chastity as the intensification of poverty and obedience), and the solitary trek (contemplation as the intensification of meditation and prayer) that everyone does.

Google the subject and the website wedgeblade.com points to cabinet-full of materials and explications. Their New Religious Mode chart is helpful to those who remain with the Christian faith but is also stuck in the transcendent mode of navel watching directed skyward; often, the human core is missed.

The chart provides a bridge into the secularity of our age. Knowing, Doing, and Being, after all, are not exclusive to the religious. Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience tend to be the language of "absence of" or the "lack of" as the format for western idealistic aims, the pursuit of an identified goal-but-not-there-yet; the chart also uses such qualifiers of "poverty" as detachment, "obedience" as engagement, and "chastity" as being single-minded about the direction of one's choices. "Meditation" throws one back to sociality, and "prayer" an expression of freedom, with "contemplation" as the sheer mystery of existence, of simply taking in the "way life is." The chart is understandable seen this way.

It is a cool chart, for those who think in threes, with accompanying 4x4s that further quads the individual subjects. I understand that hundreds of persons of no particular qualification other than as a "cadre of those who care", as later labeled, worked on this chart one summer research assembly '68 in a former hospital on Chicago's Westside. The attempt included intent to breakthrough what was the province of experts and specialists. Introducing the subject is not our intent, the metaphor for profound humanity, is.

I forsook the metaphors of skyward thinking and its assumption of an external force that determines fate and destiny, coached in the language of infinity and "theos" of the Germans garnered from the Greeks pointing to that which is profoundly human, to the wart-and-woof of down-to-earth in the here-and-now as the area that defines human profundity. Even saying it that way seems to sound like it was something special and extraordinary. No, folks, it is about the common and the ordinary.

The language of "depth" for what is "profound" is another way of escaping into the other Other World outside of this world. Old escapist habits are hard to die. "Theos" sits up in the sky and in home altars!

An island radio announcer emailed my editor for a copy of the Social Process triangle I mentioned in one of my columns. I added a chart of the Ur Images to identify major aggrupation of human understandings we used to refer to as philosophies, or god-help-us, metaphysics, "meta" again signifying an escape beyond what is ordinary.

Well, all of this is ocean wide enough to swim into; it certainly adds vocabulary to our language metaphors, but it shies away from focusing on the depth of the ordinary that comes into being as a matter of choice, mine, yours, and others. If we fail to exercise the freedom to choose, someone else will, and that's how we get carried away into trends, fads, and fashions.

Inescapably and inevitably, what is profoundly human is the reality that all of us make choices daily, profound, and ordinary. When we no longer choose, it means we are dead. Sometimes, we choose to let others do the choosing, but we still choose. "Gracias," to those at the Chicago Research Assembly S '68, but the religious metaphor can no longer hack it. Let's move on.

Mesklau na asuntu

I kuaresma, patte petmanente gi tradision-ta kumu mañgatoliku. Maseñala para ta rinueba hineñge-ta gi Saina yan selebrasion `nai mapunu` gi kilu`us ya lumala` ta`lu gi mina` tres dias: Pasguan Resureksion!

Ha sede hit humala tatte sensian tailaye pot para ta tana` mansu gi halom ridondun hinimidde. Gi hilu` este na estau `nai ta repara mas kabales hafa che`chu` echu tautau.

Bira birada tana`e ayudu i numesessita ausiliu, yine`ase` gi prohimu-ta, tunas na hinanau gi hilu` su`anu na inadahe pot no tana` puti `sino isague prohimu-ta.

Pot `nos kuantos biahe hu taitai i Torah gi biblia, i siñku na lepblu ni umesgaihon matuge` sinantusan na lepblu. Unu sessu hu huñgog eku diariu gi sinañgan i Saina i ayudu para i mampoble yan namase.

I otru i inembrasan tradisionat na hineñgen Katoliku—haf` finana`guen i Saina, ahe` ti haf` finu` i man-modetnu na hinassun relihosu siha kontodu mamale`. Haf` finu` i Saina ya mauleg ta tutuhon hit gi Dies Na Tinagu` Yuus yan estorian Sainata ni matuge` gi Santa Biblia!

Puede mauleg todu hinanau-ta ya tana` bonitu dinaña` familia pa`gu na Pasguan Resureksion!

■■■

**Fache` Sapet:** Deste 34 años malofan, kulan i primera pinetsige i para tana` kara` i kahan iya Marianas. Sopas sa` makomple ennau na pinetsige kadu` ti mahasñgun.

I rason na kada ratu hu repite este sa` gi uttimu besis umachuda` gi señgsoñg siha `nai u fattu mas sapet para i tautau.

Pot ihemplu: Pot mas ke bente años taya` subida `sino hatsada gi sueddon i tautau siha. Gi mismu tiempu i tautau chumahlau pinadesen kahulu` todu nesessidat familia. Guaha manadan delinkuenten guma. Guaha lokue` para u fan ma-amot ni primet na guma` familia.

Estague` na pinadese primera keha gi hinemlu` ekonomia. Haf` i man-sabiun imperadot I Deni mapetsisige pot adelantun ekonomia fuera de taya`? Fan egaga` sa` tautau in` represesenta guennau na fina` hogsu`!

■■■

Minalañgu: Ni unu giya hita gai planu para umalañgu. Lau este na sentimentu matulaika piot `nai man-mattu hit gi sisienta sinku años para mona. Gi mismu tiempu ni unu u soplu ginen este na chinatsaga.

U faliñgu brinabu-ta, mas dispasiu pinekat-ta, u diñgu hit lokue i hagas fitme na fanguot-ta. Yangin ta gacha` mas tagfena na idat, siempre tafan kama ya puede u fan gaige famaguon-ta para u esgaihon hit mona.

Pinilog-hu lokue` na baratu umamku`. Solu `nai soplu-yu` i bandan trahe. Esta pinat kasunes kadada` na tiempu yan franela. Ayu ha` `nai mamumuda-yu` `an para i gima` Yuus. Dispues hu totpe man-guaguan amot. Mauleg na guaha iyog-hu insurans hinemlu`.

Gi kada guaha tiempog-hu, sigeyu` manaitai estudiu tat kumu chenot daibites espesiatmiente manu `nai gaige hahale`ña este na chetnot. Hu atrebi-yu` manaitai pot megai mampos tautau-ta man-ninana`ye` dispues de kuarenta años.

Hu soda` na lamayot patte gaige gi klasen neñkanu` ni takakanu` diariu gi entalu` asukat, mantika yan asiga. Mampos bula asukat, dañosu na mantika yan fa`et mampos neñkano`ta.

Este i tres humuyuñg man-mama` asidu gi halom sisema-ta. I asidu umaminasa parahiya-ta ni lumalagnos asukat-ta para u yamag i asukat dañkulu gi kinano`ta.

`Nai tana` malañgu parahiya-ta, fumatsu fuñgsioña ya pumara man-lagnos naturat na asukat. `Nai masusede este todu asukat gi halom haga`ta sige man-etnon kulan mayulañg paip komun. Ginen este `nai ha tutuhongue` chenot daibites (Type II).

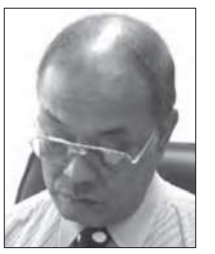
Yangin inadite i tautau daibites, siempre u famadese ti amtiyon na irida ni debi uma-utot dispues `sino nina` tailaye mas. Dispues, sige mona estake pininu reñihion-mu. Tinatiye este `nai imaminasa lokue` hinemlu` korason-mu.

Para hafa manadan birada. Gaige hinemlo`mu gi dos patman kanai-mu. Hagu kapitan batko-mu pues famatinas mauleg na disision para hinemlo`mu mismu!

Aguaguat: Man-mana`e hit amot ni mediku. Ta pega gi estante. Tatnai ta komple tinago`ña sa` man-mama` i mediku hit lokue`. `Nai la adet chenot-ta ta espiha ta`lu i mediku. Ta dage na huñgan ta gigimen amot-ta. Mana`e hit dispues otru klasen amot. Ta pega ta`lu gi estante.

`Nai sala` i chetnot mana` hanau i malañgu para Filipinas `sino Hawaii. Dispues ta lapbla na man-baban mediku gi man-gaige gi CHC. Na ti hagu mismu umesague hau sa` mama` mediku hau lokue `nai ti un` gimen amotmu gi tutuhon?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

■■■

Apas hospitat: Magahet na ha estotba-yu` i mafanana`an "deductible", salape` ginen betsa-ta ni debi ta apase hospitat `an mattu pot ayudun mediku. I kantida entalu` $1,000 esta $2,000 pesus gi sakan depende gi numeron familia.

Hu espehos maisa-yu` na makat. Kuandu menos i pumalu ni chatta` fumatitinas gi bandan monedan familia. Buente justifikau i kantida lau kau siña i man-sabiun I Deni ma-ina este na asuntu ya umana` labaratu?

■■■

Finapos Tautau: Gi setmoña si Pale Paul gi misan tataña, ginen justisia gi supremu na kotte giya Amerika, ha esplika finapos tautau `nai ni unu soplu u mafañagu, la`la` yan matai.

Gi karera mona animu na kinalamten gi inaligau mantension familia gi todu banda. Ilegña si Pale Paul na "nigap" na ha`ane para man-na`en agradesimientu pot todu bendision-ta. Pa`gu na ha`ane ta kontinua satton na ginagau bendision ginen i Saina. Agupa` `nai gaige esperensa na yangin u fattu uttimu disposision ta dalalag i Saina guatu gi hatdin taihinekog na rainoña.

Bastara ke man-tautau hit, megai `nai man-malefa hit haf` tinagu` i Saina. Ti presisu na un` pinalo`pu` didog na pinadese `sino chinatsaga para un` appela hau giya guiya. Mantene kañaiña ya un` trata kumu fiet na gachoñg-mu diariu.

Estague` na patte ayu i espirituat gi linala`mu. Chogue` i mauleg ya un` chalapon gi famaguon-mu. Mas gatbu hatdin familiamu `nai man-lachog i flores-mu siha gi papa` ma`lag na ininan atdau diariu.

As Starbucks redefines loyalty, will some regulars take flight?

If Starbucks customers are lucky, the revamp of its loyalty program that has some up in arms will be the only cue it takes from the airline industry.

There would seem little appetite to pay a lid fee, a surcharge for that paper sleeve thing that keeps you from burning your hand on the cup or a premium to bypass the communal carafe of milk.

Undeterred by the complaints Delta, United and American heard when they overhauled their frequent flier programs to reward dollars spent over miles flown, Starbucks has announced it plans to pay back customers on the basis of how much they spend rather than how often they visit.

Starbucks said this is a change—touted on its website as "more stars, more things to love"—that customers enrolled in the Starbucks Rewards program requested.

Just betting those are customers who order fancy drinks and/or something to munch on, not people who consider this the one treat they give themselves and tend to order a simple coffee.

Also, it's a fair guess they didn't anticipate the company's new math en route to free food or drink.

Beginning in April, Starbucks customers in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico will no longer reach gold status with 30 stars or 30 transactions, and then score free food with 12 stars.

Instead, with two stars awarded for each dollar spent, it will take 300 stars to get to gold and 125 stars for gold members to get freebies.

Accepting the company's estimate that the typical customer spends about $5 per visit, that's still about 30 visits to get gold but roughly 12.5 visits to get a bonus.

For those who spend closer to $3 or $4 per visit—much like people who only travel a few times a year but devote themselves to a single carrier in hopes of eventually scoring a free trip—it's a lot worse, and they have roundly complained about it on social media.

Let's face it, if this is one of the few daily luxuries you allow yourself, you may look forward to that freebie all the more.

Then again, if you're tagged to pick up coffee for the office, you're golden.

If it means anything, Starbucks is doing what it can to ensure customers hit their benchmarks faster. Whether or not anyone has noticed, the company has managed to up its prices a little here and there despite the commodity price of coffee slipping around 45 percent from a peak in October 2014.

By PHIL ROSENTHAL
Chicago Tribune

Phil Rosenthal is a business columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may send him email at philrosenthal@chicagotribune.com.

Coffee is just a small part of the overall Starbucks experience and the beans account for only about 10 percent to 20 percent of its overall costs, depending on who you ask. Real estate, equipment, wages, benefits, marketing aren't cheap.

For shareholders, margins and revenue matter more than volume, and the bottom line on all of this is that Starbucks is free to define and reward its best customers any way it wishes.

After all, the point of this loyalty exercise is to drum up more sales at its own stores, its Teavana stores, even of its branded products at grocery stores.

So it's going to dangle special offers such as monthly double-star days to lure visitors when business might otherwise be a bit slow.

It's also streamlining its membership levels from three to two, giving some benefits for customers who simply download the loyalty app, letting the company mine their data and pitch them on stopping by when near a store.

But if thriftier loyalists who expected to reach the gold level with 30 visits now find it takes 40 or more, they have every right to reconsider their dedication, as Starbucks clearly has reconsidered its dedication to them.

In the eyes of the number crunchers at Starbucks, you are what you spend, and they have already doubtlessly accounted for the possibility some of those less lucrative regulars will take flight elsewhere. Just like the airlines.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

AG's opinion needed

There are two sides to every question, because, when there are no longer two sides it ceases to be a question.

What is it that our elected leaders in our CNMI government that they don't understand about "conflict of interest" or "separation of powers," or the Legislative Branch interfering in the affairs of the executive branch of the CNMI government? Oddly, this is the only governing jurisdiction in the entire U.S. system of democracy that perpetuates the power of governing in this fashion.

Perhaps we all are missing the proper answer of what is unconstitutional or unlawful. Our CNMI Constitution prohibits any member of the Legislature from interfering with the function, operations, and growing concern of the Executive Branch. Where is the OAG and AG or any member of the Legislature on this? The AG and his cohorts should start explaining so that we can understand. It is a shame that we are engaging poor examples to our next generation in that this force of habit and indifference by our constituted authorities are out of bounced in real and useful governing.

If our Public School System can declare its stand on "separation of state and church" by prohibiting the display of the "nativity" in school premises, even if disagreement erupts in this community because of that, the explanation afforded their stand on this sensitive matter. The higher order of the OAG and AG in this government should at least urge it to take a shot explaining why the CNMI Constitution is not applicable to the "separation of powers" and "conflict of interest" situation when an elected official of the Legislature taking charge of the highest elected office in the Executive Branch of this government. Otherwise, the common person in our CNMI community is clueless what is going on because when our elected AG withholds or misses the truth suggests falsehood.

Suspension may be no fault, but showing it may be a great one. We are eager to hear what our OAG, AG, and all elected officials should say about this anomaly in our way of governing. Is this too much or unfair to ask?

Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

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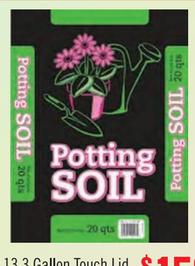

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Business

Delta climbs nine spots on Fortune's Most Admired Companies list

For the fourth time in a week, Delta is celebrating an accolade—this time from Fortune Magazine. Friday morning, Fortune named Delta to its Most Admired Companies list for the third straight year.

Delta came in at No. 30 on the list, up nine spots from No. 39 in 2015. Delta was also named Fortune's Most Admired Airline after coming in at No. 1 on the airline industry list for the fifth time in the past six years.

With its appearance on the Most Admired Companies list, Delta earns a spot among the world's leading brands, including tech giants like Apple and Amazon as well as established brands like American Express, Coca-Cola and Boeing. Delta debuted on the Most Admired Companies list at No. 48 in 2014 and moved up nine spots to No. 39 in 2015.

"In just the past week, we've celebrated the largest profit sharing payout in U.S. history, set a Guinness World Record for the world's largest "Thank You" card to our employees, achieved our goal of attaining an investment grade rating and validated our position among the world's most admired brands," said Delta President and incoming CEO Ed Bastian in a memo sent to employees today. "It is your unmatched dedication to our customers and unwavering pursuit of excellence in every area of our business that have earned these accolades. And it is those qualities that will propel us even further."

Each year, Fortune surveys top executives and directors across all industries to identify the 10 companies they most admire, regardless of industry. The airline rankings are based on the results of a global survey of airline executives, boards of directors and industry analysts who are asked to rate companies in their industry based on set criteria, which includes innovation, long-term investment value and global competitiveness.

So what makes Delta an admired company? Fortune's list is viewed as a ranking of corporate reputation. The airline earned the No. 1 spot in all but one of the nine attributes of corporate reputation measured by Fortune in 2016, including Innovation, people management, use of corporate assets, quality of management, financial soundness, long-term investment value, quality of products and services and global competitiveness. Delta came in at No. 2 for social responsibility.

In his memo, Bastian thanked and credited Delta employees for the award.

"Because of you, Delta has earned a reputation for world-class customer service, unprecedented operational excellence and a culture that puts people first and distinguishes us from our competitors."

Southwest Airlines was the only other airline to appear on the top 50 Most Admired Companies list despite coming in at No. 5 on the airline list, while Singapore Airlines came in at No. 2 on the airline industry list but dropped out of the top 50 Most Admired Companies altogether. Delta partner Air France-KLM came in at No. 3 on the airline industry list, while United Airlines came in at No. 4. American Airlines finished at No. 14 on the airline list. ***(PR)***

Bill Gates supports government efforts in Apple case

NEW YORK (AP)—Bill Gates is supportive of investigators' efforts to force Apple to help them crack into an iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino shooters, saying a balance needs to be struck between government access and the need to preserve data security.

While clarifying he doesn't support untrammeled government access to personal data, the Microsoft co-founder's position runs contrary to those of many tech executives who have backed Apple Inc. The heads of Facebook, Twitter and Google have all sided with Apple on the grounds that complying with the government's request would ultimately undermine data privacy.

Gates stated in a handful of interviews that it's not uncommon for phone companies and banks to hand over customer information to investigators. He questioned why tech companies should be treated differently.

In particular, he took issue with Apple CEO Tim Cook's argument that helping crack the shooter's iPhone would set a broader precedent.

"They are not asking for some general thing, they are asking for a particular case," Gates, who remains a technical adviser to Microsoft Corp., told the Financial Times in a Tuesday interview.

Cracking the iPhone password

A judge has ordered Apple to assist law enforcement in decrypting the phone of one of the San Bernardino shooters. The court order requires Apple to:

- Disable the feature that deletes the phone's contents after 10 failed passcode attempts
- Allow the FBI to input passcodes electronically
- Remove any intentional delays in passcode input

These changes would make it possible for the FBI to "brute force" the password by inputting every possible passcode with the help of software.

Currently, it takes a minimum of 80 milliseconds for an iPhone running iOS 9 to process the input of one passcode, according to Apple. Assuming the passcode in question uses only numbers, here's a look at how long it would take to try every possible combination with Apple's 80 millisecond delay, and without it, assuming 10 million password attempts per second as is possible with commercially available software.

Numeric	With delay	Without
4 digits 10,000 combinations	13 minutes	1 milliseconds
6 digits 1 million combinations	22 hours	100 milliseconds

Due to the larger number of characters to choose from, a password using numbers, letters and symbols would take longer to crack.

Alphanumeric		
4 characters 1.9 billion combinations	4.9 years	3 minutes
6 characters 85.5 trillion combinations	217,570 years	99 days

Source: Court documents, Apple, ElcomSoft Graphic: Tribune News Service

And in a lengthy interview on Charlie Rose on PBS, Gates said that if government is "blind," it might not be able to stop online crimes such as tax evasion, child pornography and, most importantly, terrorism.

He added in an interview with The Associated Press that public opinion will likely be on the government's side, saying "I do think people want the government to act on their behalf if they feel like the safeguards are there."

But Gates later on Tuesday said that he was being mischaracterized by the media as backing the FBI.

"The extreme view that government always gets everything, nobody supports that," he told Bloomberg News. "Having the government be blind, people don't support that."

Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym last week ordered Apple to assist investigators by creating specialized software that would let the FBI rapidly test random passcode combinations to try to unlock the iPhone and view data stored on it.

The county-issued iPhone 5C was used by Syed Farook, who with his wife, Tashfeen Malik, killed 14 people at an office holiday party in December before they died in a gun battle with police.

BOG promotes Perez to VP, managerof e-Banking Dept

Perez

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam Board of Directors, Management and Staff are pleased to announce that Michael J. Perez has been promoted to vice president/eBanking Department manager.

Perez has been managing the eBanking Department since he joined the Bank in 2013. He was previously with Citibank Guam where he was a Sales Product Specialist for Business Cash Management for two years, and before that was a manager with Great West Retirement Services for 10 years.

Perez holds FINRA Series 6 Investment Company/Variable Contracts Representative, FINRA Series 63 Uniform State Securities Registered and FINRA Series 26 Investment Company/Variable Contracts Principal licenses.

He attended the University of San Francisco before earning his B.A. from the Berklee College of Music in Professional Music: Jazz Performance Emphasis, magna cum laude.

For additional information, please call Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258 or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com. ***(PR)***

Scientists find cause of Takata air bag explosions

DETROIT (AP)—Scientists hired by the auto industry have determined that multiple factors—including moisture and high humidity—can cause some Takata air bags to inflate with too much force and hurl shrapnel at drivers and passengers.

The Independent Testing Coalition, which has been investigating the cause for the past year, announced its findings Tuesday.

Air bags made by Japan's Takata Corp. have caused at least 10 deaths and 139 injuries worldwide. The exact cause of the problem has eluded investigators for more than a decade, although more recent probes have focused on Takata's use of ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion and inflate the air bags in a crash.

The Virginia rocket science company Orbital ATK, which was hired by the coalition, determined that three factors, working together, can cause the air bags to explode. Using specially-formulated ammonium nitrate without a moisture-absorbing substance—as Takata does—increases the risk of an explosion after long-term exposure to high temperatures and moisture. Orbital ATK also found that Takata's inflator assembly doesn't adequately prevent moisture from intruding in very humid conditions.

The coalition said its findings apply to around 23 million of the 28 million Takata air bag inflators that have been recalled by the U.S. government. All of those air bags use specially-formulated ammonium nitrate without a drying agent. The findings may apply to all of the air bags, but scientists focused on the 23 million that were recalled before this year. Five million additional inflators were recalled in January.

David Kelly, a former acting administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the coalition's project manager, said that while humidity and ammonium nitrate have been discussed as factors, this is the first time scientists have determined that all the factors combined are causing the explosions. Kelly also said the design of the inflator is coming under more scrutiny than it has in the past.

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British Pound	0.7152	Indian Rupee	68.535	Singapore Dollar	1.4067
Canadian Dollar	1.3796	Indonesian Rupiah	13442	South Korean Won	1234.34
Chinese Yuan	6.5334	Japanese Yen	111.9215	Swiss Franc	0.9934
Euro	0.9082	Malaysian Ringgit	4.2335	Taiwan Dollar	33.2823
		New Zealand Dollar	1.5084	Thailand Baht	35.7341

Nation

At least 3 dead as storms, tornadoes rip through Gulf states

KENNER, La. (AP)—Tornadoes and severe weather ripped through the Gulf Coast on Tuesday, mangling trailers at an RV park, ripping off roofs from buildings and killing at least three people in Louisiana and Mississippi, authorities said.

One of the most hard-hit areas appeared to be a recreational vehicle park in the town of Convent, in southern Louisiana. Two people were killed there, said St. James Parish Sheriff Willy Martin, speaking on local television. Authorities were still looking for people possibly trapped under the debris, Martin said.

Thirty-one people were taken to area hospitals, and seven of them were in critical condition, he said.

"We never had anything like this; we never had this many people injured in one event, and so much destruction in one event," Martin told WVUE news. "We won't stop searching until we're satisfied we've searched every pile."

Martin said three people were still believed to be missing but efforts to account for them were hampered because authorities didn't know how many people were at the park when the storm hit or how many people were taken to hospitals in private vehicles.

Jerome Picou, who lives near the park, said just before the tornado hit that it was raining and the skies grew dark. Then he heard what sounded like a freight train.

"The wind was blowing a little bit, but then it stopped. Then all of a sudden all kinds of wind and rain started. It was so bad, I had to go inside the house or I would have been blown away with it," Picou said.

In Mississippi, officials are still sorting through reports of damage to some buildings, but Vann Byrd of the Lamar County Emergency Management Agency said one person died in a mobile home west of Purvis. Lamar County Coroner Cody Creel said that Dale Purvis, 73, died of blunt-force trauma.

The reported tornadoes are part of a line of severe weather and storms that ripped through the region.

At least seven tornadoes hit southeast Louisiana and southwest Mississippi, said Ken Graham, the meteorologist in charge for the National Weather Service's southeast Louisiana office.

That number includes the one in Convent and near Purvis, Mississippi, he said. Teams will be sent out in the morning to document the damage and rate the tornadoes, he said.

The harsh weather even affected the National Weather Service, Graham said. At one point the staff in the Slidell office took shelter because a tornado was nearby, and lightning took out the office's radar, forcing them to use backups, he said.

"We felt the shockwave go through the building," Graham said.

Reported tornadoes and severe weather caused damage in other parts of both states.

A reported tornado caused some damage but no injuries near New Orleans' main airport, while high winds ripped off roofs and downed trees around the greater New Orleans area. Other suspected tornadoes were reported north of Lake Pontchartrain and west of the city in St. Charles and Ascension parishes and in Prairieville, between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, heavy damage was reported to some buildings, including a fitness gym.

AP

Volunteers Percy Mitchell, left, and Eugene Trice, carry a ladder as they attempt to knock down bricks from the wall of the New Mount Bethel Baptist Church, which suffered weather damage in Kenner, La., Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016.

ACROSS THE NATION

Appeals court upholds limit on sharing of tips among workers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal appeals court has upheld a U.S. labor department rule that limits the ability of a restaurant, casino or other employer to share tips among its employees. The rule at issue in Tuesday's decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was put forward by the labor department in 2011. It prevents employers from sharing tips left for waiters and other staff that normally receive tips with dishwashers, cooks and other backend staff. The 9th Circuit said the rule was consistent with Congress's goal of ensuring tips stay with employees who receive them.

Phoenix police face chaotic shooting, fire that left 5 dead

PHOENIX (AP)—Authorities trying to rescue a family begging for help as a relative opened fire in their Phoenix home arrived to a chaotic crime scene they could not prepare for. The shooter ignited a raging fire and was still inside. Officers donned breathing gear, grabbed fire hoses and ran in, hoping to save lives. They pulled out two victims but had to make a hasty retreat as bullets flew their way. The violence played out in a cul-de-sac of quiet, suburban family homes Tuesday morning. Authorities eventually found five family members dead or wounded, including the shooter and a 6-year-old girl who died at a hospital, police Sgt. Trent Crump said. Three officers were treated for smoke inhalation.

Where is the 'LOVE?' Philadelphia sculpture moved for rehab

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia's iconic "LOVE" statue has taken a ride to its temporary home while the park named after it gets a multimillion-dollar renovation. The Robert Indiana sculpture was loaded onto a lift truck Tuesday morning at the now-closed Love Park. It was slowly transported across the street to its new home at Dilworth Plaza, near City Hall. Perennial tourist attraction Love Park is closed for about a year during the renovation. The new-and-improved park will have more green space, a new fountain and a food and beverage operation. However, it won't have the signature granite slabs that made it a skateboarding mecca. Mayor Jim Kenney has said the granite will be given to skate parks around the city.

Bathrooms become battlegrounds in anti-discrimination debate

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—As bathrooms become battlegrounds in the national debate over anti-discrimination laws, a city council's decision to protect the restroom choices of transgender people in Charlotte, North Carolina, was cheered Tuesday by rights advocates as a courageous move. But it may not stand for very long.

Gov. Pat McCrory told The Associated Press that the bathroom provision denies privacy rights for people who expect to share restrooms or locker rooms only with people born with the same anatomy.

"It's an extreme regulation that changes the basic norms of society," the Republican governor said, adding that he would like the state legislature to pre-empt any local governments from enforcing such ordinances. "I don't want to have 100 different rules" across the state, he said.

As sweeping changes take hold across America in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision legalizing gay marriage last year, advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people have sought to build on that momentum by securing broad protections against discrimination in cities and states nationwide.

Most of the 20 largest U.S. cities now enforce state laws or local ordinances that include allowances for people to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with, said Cathryn Oakley, an attorney with the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign who helped generate support for Charlotte's ordinance.

And as conservatives push back, they are increasingly finding that concerns about bathroom encounters resonate more with voters than other aspects of such laws. In Jacksonville, Florida, a council member withdrew a measure similar to Charlotte's last week after encountering just such pressure.

"We're currently tracking 192 bills, the vast majority of which are anti-LGBT with major themes being trans bathrooms and rfras (religious freedom restoration acts) focused on marriage," Mark Daniel Snyder, spokesman for the Equality Federation, a gay rights group, said in an email.

Charlotte's ordinance is broader than just bathrooms, prohibiting hotels for example from refusing to rent a room to a lesbian couple, City Attorney Robert Hagemann stressed.

"The restroom issue has gotten an awful lot of attention," Hagemann said. "The primary aspect of what the council did is to prohibit discrimination in public accommodation. That's not just restrooms."

Leaders of polygamous sect arrested in Utah food stamp fraud

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Several top leaders from Warren Jeffs' polygamous sect were arrested Tuesday on federal accusations of food stamp fraud and money laundering - marking one of the biggest crackdowns on the group in years.

The charges are the government's latest move targeting the sect based on the Utah-Arizona border, coinciding with legal battles in two states over child labor and discrimination against nonbelievers.

Prosecutors accuse church leaders of orchestrating a yearslong fraud scheme instructing members how to use food-stamp benefits illegally for the benefit of the faith and avoid getting caught, according to an indictment from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Utah.

One common tactic was buying groceries with the food stamps and giving the supplies to the church's communal storehouse for leaders to choose how to divvy up. Other times, members would give their cards to others who weren't supposed to use them, prosecutors said.

They also would swipe the cards at church-run stores without walking away with foods or goods, leaving the money to the store owners. Some of those funds were then used to pay thousands for a tractor and a truck, the indictment shows.

Eleven people were charged in the scheme, including Lyle Jeffs and Seth Jeffs, top-ranking leaders of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and brothers of imprisoned sect leader Warren Jeffs.

Lyle Jeffs runs the day-to-day operations in the polygamous community of Hildale, Utah, while Seth Jeffs leads a branch of the group in South Dakota. Their brother is serving a life sentence in Texas for sexually assaulting girls he considered brides at a secretive church compound in that state.

"This indictment is not about religion. This indictment is about fraud," U.S. Attorney John Huber said.

The bust goes well beyond fraud—putting in doubt who will lead the group and how members will respond to a decisive message from government officials they have historically despised, said Amos Guiora, a University of Utah law professor who has studied the church.

"This is a clear drawing of that magical line in that sand that government will not tolerate crimes committed in the name of religion," Guiora said.

The sect does not have a spokesman or a phone listing where leaders can be contacted. The Associated Press could not verify if the defendants had attorneys yet.

Asia

Smart rats are sniffing out Cambodia's vast mine fields

TRACH, Cambodia (AP)—It's been a busy morning for Cletus, Meynard, Victoria and others of their furry band. Tiny noses and long whiskers twitching, they've scurried and sniffed their way across 775 square meters (8,300 square feet) of fields to eliminate a scourge that has killed thousands of Cambodians: land mines.

Meet the Hero Rats: intelligent, surprisingly adorable creatures with some of the most sensitive noses in the animal kingdom. Sent from Africa, where they successfully cleared minefields in Mozambique and Angola, they began the same task in northwestern Cambodia early this month and have already scored tangible results.

Two hectares (4.4 acres) have been declared mine-free around this village where more than 15 people have been killed or wounded by the explosives, forcing some to abandon their homes and rice fields and seek jobs elsewhere.

One villager, Khun Mao, says the rats have been sniffing for suspected mines in a rice field he had been afraid to cultivate for years. He says that while it is too soon to say whether the rodents can remove every mine, "To me, these rats are wonderful."

AP

In this Feb. 19, 2016, photo, Cambodian team member Ok Chann plays with one of the rats after it scurried across a minefield, using its super sensitive nose to detect the killer explosives, in Trach, Cambodia.

"The villagers have started to get excited about farming their land again. You can see the light in their faces," says Paul McCarthy, Cambodia program manager for the Belgian nonprofit organization APOPO, or Anti-Personnel Land Mines Detection Product in English.

On a recent morning, the African giant pouched rats were working two suspected, taped-off minefields. Each rodent wore a harness connected to a rope strung out in a straight line between two handlers standing about 5 meters (15 feet) apart and outside the danger zone.

Amnesty criticizes India for intolerance of dissent

NEW DELHI (AP)—Amnesty International has joined a growing chorus accusing India of supporting a climate of intolerance by cracking down on dissent through arbitrary arrests, caste-based discrimination, extrajudicial killings and attacks on freedom of expression.

The rights group said in its annual global report, published Wednesday, that India's Hindu nationalist government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had failed to prevent hundreds of incidents of communal violence, usually involving members of the Hindu majority pitted against Muslims or other minorities. Instead, ruling party lawmakers and politicians were fueling religious tensions with provocative speeches and justifications for the violence, it said.

Amnesty's report also highlights the government's continued harassment of civil society groups critical of official policies over the past year, as well as government legal action aimed at controlling foreign funds for nongovernmental organizations.

"Over 3,200 people were being held in January under administrative detention on executive orders without charge or trial," the report said, adding that state authorities used "anti-terror" laws to illegally hold activists and protesters in custody.

The report is the latest criticism to be leveled at Modi's government after a year fraught with communal tension as members of India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party try to impose their brand of hyper-nationalism.

Dozens of Indian authors, scientists, historians and film industry workers have returned national awards to protest the trend, which has seen arrests of student protesters, the murder of three atheist scholars and mob killings over rumors of cow slaughter. Among India's majority Hindu population, cows are considered sacred.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US military leader says Okinawa base move delayed 2 years

TOKYO (AP)—A controversial plan to move a U.S. Marine Corps base within Okinawa in southern Japan has been pushed back by two years, America's top military official in the Pacific said. Adm. Harry Harris, head of the U.S. Pacific Command, said Tuesday that the shift of the Futenma air station to a less congested part of Okinawa island would not happen until 2025 because work on a new facility has been delayed. "It's slowed," he told a congressional committee in Washington. "It's a little over two years late. ... Now we're looking at 2025 before that's done." The project faces stiff opposition from both protesters and the Okinawan prefectural government. The Japanese government is building the air station, which will extend over the water from another Marine Corps base near the town of Henoko.

Muslim militants attack Filipino troops, more than 20 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim militants attacked an army camp in the southern Philippines, sparking three days of sporadic clashes that left three soldiers and up to 20 attackers dead, the military said Tuesday. The fighting broke out late Saturday when about 40 militants from a still-unspecified group opened fire on the camp in Butig town in Lanao del Sur province. Soldiers defended the camp, sparking on-and-off clashes in the remote region, military officials said. About 40 more militants reinforced the attackers Sunday. The military deployed additional troops, bomber planes, helicopter gunships and artillery to the area, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said. Residents fled to safety, he said. "That's one of our concerns. Some of the fighting happened in a populated area," Padilla said.

World

As drought hammers countryside, many in Haiti are going hungry

ORIANI, Haiti (AP)—Only shriveled carrots and potatoes grow in Carole Joseph's small vegetable plot. The family's chickens are long gone. She sold her only tools to buy food, then the wooden bed she shared with her children. The family now sleeps on the floor of their shack.

All that's left to sell are the pots she uses to cook over a fire pit, when there's something to eat.

The 28-year-old mother of four, is among roughly 1.5 million Haitians who can't get nearly enough nutrition because of a yearslong drought that has spoiled harvests in her small mountain village and across large sections of the countryside.

"We get a little bit to eat and drink each day, but it's never enough to get our strength back. I don't know what to do anymore," she said, her voice hoarse as she cradled her toddler twins, their hair brittle and taking on a yellowish tinge, signs of malnutrition.

For the last three years, a punishing drought has driven Haitians who were already barely getting by on marginal farmland even deeper into misery. Last year's crop yields were the worst in 35 years in a country where more than two-thirds of people eke out a living from agriculture, many using archaic hand tools.

Many Haitians routinely go to bed hungry, and are heartbreakingly accustomed to privation and natural disasters. But the cumulative impact of this drought is so severe that Haiti is facing "unprecedented food insecurity," according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Over the last year, it's worsened significantly with a strong El Nino weather phenomenon that's been disrupting weather patterns across the globe, leaving many places in Latin America and the Caribbean stricken by drought. Cuba suffered its worst drought in over a century in 2015 and water rationing was ordered in Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

But few places are more vulnerable than Haiti, where 3.6 million of its 10.4 million people can't afford the minimum daily calories, according to the U.N. World Food Program. Of those, 1.5 million are in urgent need of assistance, meaning they're getting significantly less nutrition than what they need and are so underfed they become weak. That category of "severely food insecure" people has doubled in Haiti over the last six months, the agency said.

Bolivian voters reject letting Morales run for 4th term

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—Voters in Bolivia rejected by a slim margin a constitutional amendment that would have let President Evo Morales run for a fourth consecutive term in 2019, electoral officials announced Tuesday night.

It was the first direct electoral defeat for the leftist coca grower union leader since he first won the presidency in 2005.

The vote was 51 percent to 49 percent against the ballot question, with 99.5 percent of the ballots counted, a margin of just over 150,000 votes, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal reported. The outcome of Sunday's referendum also blocks Vice President Alvaro Garcia from running again.

Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous president, helped lift millions out of poverty by more equitably distributing natural gas revenues, spurring the creation of an indigenous middle class.

But his governing Movement Toward Socialism party has been buffeted by scandal. The vote closely followed a revelation that Morales may have been personally involved in influence-peddling.

Until Sunday's ballot, Morales had won nationwide elections, including a 2009 rewrite of the constitution, with an average 61.5 percent of the vote

The referendum's margin of defeat coincided almost exactly with two unofficial "quick count" samples announced Sunday by polling firms.

The results showed allegations of vote fraud by some members of the opposition to be unfounded, said Jose Luis Exeni, a member of the electoral tribunal.

The vote count had been unusually slow and Vice President Alvaro Garcia said earlier Tuesday that the outcome would be a "cliff-hanger."

He claimed a right-wing conspiracy was "trying to make disappear by sleight of hand the rural vote that favors Morales." Garcia provided no evidence to back the claim.

Ramon Castro, Cuban leader's older brother, dies at age 91

HAVANA (AP)—Ramon Castro, a lifelong rancher and farmer who bore a strong physical resemblance to younger brother Fidel Castro, has died, Cuban state media announced Tuesday. He was 91.

Widely known by his nickname "Mongo," the white-bearded Ramon Castro preferred tending crops and livestock to the revolutionary political life embraced by his younger siblings Fidel and Raul, who replaced Fidel as Cuba's president in February 2008.

Two years older than Fidel, Ramon was long used to getting double-takes from people who insisted he looked just like his famous brother. At times, Ramon was said to reply that because he was older, Fidel actually looked like him.

Ramon, Fidel and Raul were the second, third and fourth children of Angel Castro, a Spanish-born rancher, and his second wife, Lina Ruz. Angel Castro also had two other children from a previous marriage.

The three brothers attended Roman Catholic schools in eastern Cuba, where their teachers complained about their pranks and trouble making, prompting Angel to pull them out of classes for some time.

Once grown, Fidel and Raul headed off to Havana for studies, then the business of launching a revolution against dictator Fulgencio Batista, who seized power in a 1952 coup.

But Ramon Castro was content to remain in the village of Biran in eastern Cuba, where he helped his father with the family business.

Nevertheless, Ramon remained in contact with his siblings. He wrote letters to Fidel in prison when he and Raul and other followers were arrested after their unsuccessful 1953 attack on a military barracks that launched their armed struggle. Sometimes along with the correspondence, Ramon sent along a ham or a box of cigars.

According to letters from that period, Fidel asked Ramon to assure their parents that prison was not "a horrible and shameful idea. ... When one's motives are lofty and great, then it is an honorable place."

Environment

Seas are rising way faster than any time in past 2,800 years

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

AP
In this Oct. 31, 2012 file photo, a view from the air shows the destroyed homes left in the wake of Superstorm Sandy in Ortley Beach, N.J. S

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sea levels on Earth are rising several times faster than they have in the past 2,800 years and are accelerating because of man-made global warming, according to new studies.

An international team of scientists dug into two dozen locations across the globe to chart gently rising and falling seas over centuries and millennia. Until the 1880s and the world's industrialization, the fastest seas rose was about 1 to 1.5 inches (3 to 4 centimeters) a century, plus or minus a bit. During that time global sea level really didn't get much higher or lower than 3 inches (7.5 centimeters) above or below the 2,000-year average.

But in the 20th century the world's seas rose 5.5 inches (14 centimeters). Since 1993 the rate has soared to a foot per century (30 centimeters). And two different studies published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said by 2100 that the world's oceans will rise between 11 to 52 inches (28 to 131 centimeters), depending on how much heat-trapping gas Earth's industries and vehicles expel.

"There's no question that the 20th century is the fastest," said Rutgers earth and planetary sciences professor Bob Kopp, lead author of the study that looked back at sea levels over the past three millennia. "It's because of the temperature increase in the 20th century which has been driven by fossil fuel use."

To figure out past sea levels and rates of rise and fall, scientists engaged in a "geological detective story," said study co-author Ben Horton, a Rutgers marine scientist. They went around the world looking at salt marshes and other coastal locations and used different clues to figure out what the sea level was at different times. They used single cell organisms that are sensitive to salinity, mangroves, coral, sediments and other clues in cores, Horton said. On top of that they checked their figures by easy markers such as the rise of lead with the start of the industrial age and isotopes only seen in the atomic age.

When Kopp and colleagues charted the sea level rise over the centuries—they went back 3,000 years, but aren't confident in the most distant 200 years—they saw Earth's sea level was on a downward trend until the industrial age.

Sea level rise in the 20th century is mostly man-made, the study authors said. A separate, not-yet-published study by Kopp and others found since 1950, about two-thirds of the U.S. nuisance coastal floods in 27 locales have the fingerprints of man-made warming.

And if seas continue to rise, as projected, another 18 inches (46 centimeters) of sea level rise is going to cause lots of problems and expense, especially with surge during storms, said study co-author Stefan Rahmstorf of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

"There is such a tight relationship between sea level and temperature," Horton said. "I wish there wasn't, then we wouldn't be as worried."

The link to temperature is basic science, the study's authors said. Warm water expands. Cold water contracts. The scientists pointed to specific past eras when temperatures and sea rose and fell together.

The Kopp study and a separate one published by another team projected future sea level rise based on various techniques. They came to the same general estimates, despite using different methods, said Anders Levermann, a co-author of the second paper and a researcher at the Potsdam Institute.

If greenhouse gas pollution continues at the current pace, both studies project increases of about 22 to 52 inches (57 to 131 centimeters). If countries fulfill the treaty agreed upon last year in Paris and limit further warming to another 2 degrees Fahrenheit, sea level rise would be in the 11 to 22 inch range (28 to 56 centimeters).

Jonathan Overpeck at the University of Arizona, who wasn't part of the studies, praised them, saying they show a clear cause and effect between warming and sea level rise.

Little Blindy gets airborne, and brings hope for NZ penguins

FLEA BAY, New Zealand (AP)—Blindy the little blue penguin was born without functioning eyes and developed the unusual habit of swimming in tight circles.

So to prevent the bird from continually crashing into the side of the small pond where it swims, Shireen Helps began tossing it out into deeper water. Penguins are flightless but Blindy, for a few moments anyway, gets to be airborne.

Blindy lives in New Zealand's Flea Bay, home to three humans and more than 2,500 penguins. Efforts by the Helps family over more than three decades helped save the bay's penguins from predators while many nearby colonies were wiped out.

These days, the colony is thriving, a hopeful sign at a time when many penguin species from the Galapagos Islands to Antarctica are facing threats from humans that come from overfishing and global warming.

Helps and her husband Francis never intended to become penguin custodians. Francis moved to Flea Bay, also known as Pohatu, in 1969, with the intention of farming sheep and cattle. He said it wasn't until the first night, when he was kept awake by noises like a donkey braying, that he realized he was surrounded by penguins.

"They're very noisy at night, especially pre-breeding," said Shireen Helps. "They get really wound up. They party all night."

After meeting Francis, Shireen moved to the bay in 1974, and said she noticed other penguin colonies in the area were disappearing.

"And that's when we started to look critically around our own backyard," she said. "We found dead penguins everywhere. We realized that predators were hitting into them, and if somebody didn't do something to save this colony, it would be lost."

So they began trapping feral cats, ferrets and stoats. They also built tiny wooden huts for the penguins to monitor them and to stop them fighting each other for nesting sites. Finally, they started nursing the ill birds, managing to save some and return them to the wild.

Found in parts of Australia and New Zealand, the penguins go by several names: little penguins, little blue penguins, and fairy penguins. Adults stand just 33 centimeters (13 inches) tall and weigh 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds), making them the world's smallest penguin species.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Gregorio Bermudes Sablan

September 13, 1936 – February 20, 2016

Lovingly known as Goro Tame'

Was called by our Almighty Father to eternal rest at the age of 79 years.

In his new life, he joins his:

Parents: †Nicolas Palacios Sablan
†Rita Deleon Guerrero Bermudes

Parents In-Law: †Juan Sablan Cabrera
†Joaquina Diaz Muna Cabrera

His memories will live on forever in the hearts of his:

Wife: Francisca Muna Sablan

Children:
Pauline J. Scragg/Tony and Children
1st Sgt. (Ret.) Nicolas Muna Sablan/Antoinette (Sonny and Andrew/Chyna Mae – Ronan)
LTC Gregorio Muna Sablan, Jr. (TSGT Joshua M. Sablan, Nicholas, Jared, Nathan)
Rita /Todd (Sean, Allison, Britney and Allani)
Jeanne S. Hernandez/Johnny (Antonio Gregorio Tame')

Brothers/Sisters In-Laws:
Consolacion; Charlie; Maria; Ana; Pedro/Balbina; Gregorio (Mana); Antonio; †Soledad/Jose; †Rita/Richard
Maria/†Augustine; Magdalena; Rosa/†Al
Juan/Dyna; Victoria; †Antonia; Jose/Victoria

Reared Children
Daniel M. Cabrera and Children
Capt. Georgia M. Cabrera/Vivian
Edgardo V. Cabrera/Prisca and Children
Francisco R. Cabrera/Carlynn and Children
Erlinda C. Naputi/Martin and Children

Reared Brothers/Sisters In-Law
†Jesus/Rita Sablan; Ana/Henry Indalecio; Trinidad/†Jose Onedera

Special Friends
Former Governor Pedro P. Tenorio/Sophie
Former Governor Benigno R. Fitial/Josie
Felipe Roberto/Kets

Caretaker
Leonora T. Mabutas

Nightly mass is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6pm. On Monday, February 29, 2016, his remains will leave Borja Funeral Home at 7:30am and will be escorted to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso will be at 8:00am followed by the rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence is greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You!

Francisca Muna Sablan, Children and Family

Life & Style

Academy Awards may be hooked on 'Oscar bait'

AP
This photo provided by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Michael B. Jordan, left, and Sylvester Stallone in a scene from "Creed."

NEW YORK (AP)—In the Coen brothers' recent 1950s Hollywood satire, "Hail, Caesar!" Ralph Fiennes' ascot-wearing British director Laurence Laurentz is helming a stuffy drawing room drama full of tuxedoed men and ballroom-gowned women.

The movie, "Merrily We Dance," Laurentz declares is a "prestige picture." But it's clear that the Coens think so-called "prestige pictures" can be just as much a joke as any other type of movie. In its day, "Merrily We Dance" would have been destined for Oscars.

Lately, the narrow parameters of movies celebrated by the Academy Awards in the best picture category haven't been quite so funny. Self-serious prestige films have long found a ready seat at the Oscars, while films starring or directed by minorities have struggled to. There are many factors behind what's led to two straight years of all-white acting nominees, but one is the stifling limitation of what gets considered an "Oscar movie."

What frequently guides a movie toward a best picture nomination or a star toward an acting nod is a confluence of factors that frequently have only so much to do with quality. Influential is how a movie is released (a prominent festival rollout can pay big dividends), how much support a movie has from its distributor (the parties and advertisements that go into Oscar campaigns are expensive) and how willing the talent is to promote themselves.

"It's a racket," says Viggo Mortensen, who was nominated in 2008 for David Cronenberg's "Eastern Promises."

"The nomination process is essentially run by, dictated by money and public relations maneuvering," Mortensen says. "And so that's why every year, there are only a handful of, in my opinion, deserving and enduring nominees of enduring quality."

This year's best picture nominees boast a handful of films from outside the film academy's traditional comfort zone, most notably George Miller's much-nominated post-apocalyptic chase film "Mad Max: Fury Road."

But many of the films that could have put a charge into this year's awards didn't fit the limited confines of Oscar bait. Ryan Coogler's "Creed," while it landed a nod for Sylvester Stallone's supporting performance, had the odds stacked against it. It's a seventh entry in a franchise and it wasn't much pushed by its studio, Warner Bros. Its humanistic heartbeat is perhaps—like Coogler's previous "Fruitvale Station," also starring Michael B. Jordan—outside the kind of films starring black actors that usually garner academy attention.

Few African American actors have ever won for a film by a black director. (A notable exception is Denzel Washington for Antoine Fuqua's "Training Day.") No black actress has ever won for a film helmed by a black director.

The N.W.A biopic "Straight Outta Compton"—which lacked a white protagonist or the historical sweep of "12 Years a Slave"—also didn't fit the usual criteria. One academy member, the writer-director Rod Lurie, says he heard numerous academy voters dismiss even screening "Straight Outta Compton."

Taste plays a part, but the playing field is uneven. If it wasn't, Melissa McCarthy would have an armful of Oscars by now.

Like many genres, comedy is all but forgotten come awards season. This year, the trend reached a somewhat absurd endpoint when David O. Russell's somber "Joy" and the nerdy space adventure "The Martian" sneaked into the comedy category at the Golden Globes.

TV's 'black-ish' takes child's eye view of police violence

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As tense crowds await a grand jury's decision in a case of possible police brutality, a child watching TV news coverage asks his parents a simple but loaded question.

"Why are these people so mad?" the African-American boy queries in Wednesday's episode of "black-ish," prompting the TV family's debate over how much to tell children about how harsh the world may or may not be.

The ABC comedy began its second season with a deft look at the increasingly casual use of the N-word, so it's unsurprising it would take on the even-thornier subject of police treatment of blacks through a fictional case in Los Angeles in which a black man was hit repeatedly with a Taser by officers.

But Kenya Barris, the show's creator and executive producer, said his goal was to prompt viewer conversations about how parents respond to the deluge of worrying information children face in these hyper-connected times.

The episode, which airs at 9:30 p.m. EST, "had less to do with police brutality and more to do with talking to your kids about the world they're living in and they can't avoid anymore" because of the Internet, their friends and myriad other sources, he said.

"How do you talk to your kids about hard things and not make scorched-earth whatever their experiences are going to be based on your experiences" and perspective, Barris said.

The question young Jack (Miles Brown) poses in the opening scene echoes one that Barris got from his own son, then 7, as they watched coverage of the Ferguson, Missouri, protests sparked by the fatal police shooting of Michael Brown, 18.

That said, Rainbow and Andre "Dre" Johnson (Tracee Ellis Ross, Anthony Anderson) and others in the family are blunt in their opinions about police treatment of blacks. The result is funny, provocative and unsettling.

"The police are damn thugs," says Dre's father, Pops (Laurence Fishburne).

"Not all police," says Rainbow.

"Yeah, only 92 percent. The other 8 percent are advisers on 'Law & Order' episodes," snaps back Dre.

The point is that that all individuals, black or otherwise, have their own perspective, Barris said, and that was key to "black-ish" from the start.

It's common for minority characters to be presented with a "monolithic vocal tone," he said. "We built the series to show we are really multilayered as people, not just black people but in general as a community of Americans."

The series, of course, also was designed to draw laughs. Barris recognizes that this week's episode may summon memories of those "very special" sitcom half-hours that ventured into deep waters, such as 1977's "All in the Family" episode about the attempted rape of gentle housewife Edith Bunker.

"I'm very interested and nervous as to the reaction. It's different from anything I've written before," said Barris.

It's also different from what TV tends to be, which is carefully detached from controversy to avoid upsetting sponsors or viewers. Barris credits ABC, which last week named Channing Dungey, the first African-American to head a broadcast network.

"This experiment called 'black-ish' has been an amazing journey, and it's been supported by the network in a way that I don't know that a lot of other networks would have," Barris said.

Coogler, DuVernay to attend Flint event on Oscar night

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Creed" director Ryan Coogler, Ava DuVernay, Janelle Monae and other Hollywood celebrities have big plans for Oscar night. But they have nothing to do with the Academy Awards. Coogler and company will be 2,300 miles away in Flint, Michigan, participating in a benefit for residents affected by the town's lead-contaminated water crisis.

DuVernay, Monae and others tweeted Tuesday about their involvement in the Sunday night event, which is being called #JusticeForFlint. Hosted by comedian Hannibal Buress, the free show will serve as both a fundraiser and an awareness campaign, complete with performances and testimonials. Revolt.tv plans to stream it live.

About the same time on Sunday night, Coogler's "Creed" is a favorite to win the best supporting actor Oscar for Sylvester Stallone's reprise of his iconic Rocky character. It was the sole nomination for the critically acclaimed film, which many saw as yet another example of how the film academy is out of step with today's audiences.

This year's Academy Awards are again embroiled in a diversity crisis stemming from a second straight year of all-white acting nominees, now symbolized by the Twitter hashtag #OscarsSoWhite. Outrage over the Oscars' all-white slates has included calls for a boycott of the ceremony from Hollywood notables like Will Smith and wife Jada Pinkett Smith, and it prompted the academy to announce sweeping changes to their membership rules.

Although Coogler and DuVernay have been at the center of the ongoing discussions about diversity in the entertainment industry, it was unclear whether they had ever planned to join the Oscar boycott or whether the simultaneous timing of the #JusticeForFlint show was at all related to the boycott or just a coincidence.

Representatives for Coogler and DuVernay did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

Earlier this month, Stallone said he asked Coogler whether he should attend the Oscars in light of the boycott talk. Stallone said Coogler told him he should go and represent the film.

Madonna makes surprise visits to Manila children's shelters

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Pop star Madonna made surprise visits to two Manila shelters for orphans and street children, taking selfies with kids a day before the start of her two-night concert stint in the Philippine capital.

Pictures on her Instagram account showed her carrying a baby in one arm while holding hands with a girl guiding her on a tour of the Hospicio de San Jose orphanage on Tuesday. At the Bahay Tuluyan shelter for street kids, she sat on a tarpaulin mat with children.

"Chillin' with my Homies at the Bahay Tuluyan Foundation Inc. giving shelter to orphans street children trafficking/abuse victims in Manila!!" Madonna captioned a selfie taken with three kids as they lay on the mat.

Officials at the shelter were told Monday that Madonna's dancers were going to visit, but they did not find out that Madonna herself was also coming until an hour before her arrival, said Catherine Scerri, the deputy executive director of Bahay Tuluyan.

She said the children did a couple of dances before being joined by Madonna's dancers. Madonna asked the officials about the center's program and whether the children were going to school, but she spent most of her 45-minute visit with the kids, Scerri added.

Madonna plays Manila's Mall of Asia Arena on Wednesday and Thursday, the latest stops on her "Rebel Heart" world tour.

An outspoken Philippine Roman Catholic leader, Archbishop Ramon Arguelles of Lipa, a diocese south of Manila, has discouraged Filipinos from attending the concerts.

"Why is the Catholic Philippines the favorite venue for blasphemy against God and the Holy Mother?" he said in a text message to reporters Tuesday.

He stopped short of calling for a boycott, like he did in 2012 when Lady Gaga held a concert in Manila, but said in the text that "all God-loving people should avoid sin and occasions of sin."

AP

In this Feb. 20, 2016 file photo, U.S. singer Madonna performs during the Rebel Heart World Tour in Macau.

Spike Lee endorses Sanders: 'He will do the right thing'

Filmmaker Spike Lee is endorsing Bernie Sanders for president in a South Carolina radio ad.

Arguing, in Sanders' words, that the "system is rigged," Lee praises Sanders for not taking money from corporations in the ad. And in a reference to one of his early films, Lee says that once in the White House, Sanders "will do the right thing."

Lee also notes that the Vermont senator participated in the march on Washington and protested segregation in Chicago public schools.

A writer, director and actor, Lee's films include "Do the Right Thing," and "Malcom X." His most recent movie "Chi-Raq" is about gun violence in Chicago.

Lee endorsed President Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. ***(AP)***

AP

In this Feb. 16, 2016 file photo, director Spike Lee poses for the photographers at the 2016 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Germany.

Celine Dion returns to Vegas Strip residency

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Singer Celine Dion is returning to the stage Tuesday on the Las Vegas Strip, a month after the death of her husband and manager.

Dion had cancelled January dates for her "Celine" show performances at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace following the death of Rene Angelil.

He died Jan. 14 at the age of 73 after a long battle with throat cancer in the suburban Las Vegas home he shared with Dion and their three children.

Dion said at a February memorial for her late husband that Angelil was the love of her life and always protected her.

Angelil was credited with discovering the Canadian singer and nurturing her superstar career.

Lawyer: Cosby using courts to bully accuser, witnesses

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A lawyer for the accuser in Bill Cosby's criminal sex-assault case says Cosby is using the courts to bully her client and other trial witnesses.

Cosby has sued accuser Andrea Constand for talking to police who reopened the 2005 case last year.

He says that violated the confidential settlement of her civil lawsuit. Cosby therefore wants the woman to return the settlement money.

Cosby also sued Constand's mother and lawyers in the complaint he initially filed under seal Friday.

Constand lawyer Dolores Troiani in a response this week says the secret filings are an effort by Cosby to create a "shadow court system" that is free from public scrutiny.

Billie Jean King serves as star in 'Fresh off the Boat'

NEW YORK (AP)—Billie Jean King plays an intense coach in the upcoming episode of "Fresh Off the Boat."

The tennis great stars Tuesday night on ABC in the "Michael Chang Fever" episode.

The parents of the Asian-American family featured in the show realize their middle child has the potential to become a tennis star. King is hired to take him to the next level, but they think she may be taking the training too far.

King says she had "so much fun on the set" even though she was out of her "comfort zone, especially with some of the lines in the script." But the actors and directors "made things easy and enjoyable" for her.

The show is based on Eddie Huang's memoir about growing up Taiwanese-American during the 1990s in Florida.

AP

In this Jan. 29, 2016, file photo, tennis great Billie Jean King, left, laughs, reacting to President Barack Obama's remarks in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex in Washington.

Young moms feel pressure to succeed at parenting

DEAR ABBY: Why is there so much angst today over raising children, especially in young mothers? I don't remember my mother or my friends' mothers being so concerned about whether or not they were doing a good job, and I certainly didn't gather with my daughters' friends' moms to bemoan whether I was a bad mother.

Now there are all these blogs and workshops, etc. on how to be the "best" mom, and all these lifestyle gurus who constantly tell them not to worry, they're doing a great job. It just seems like a bunch of nonsense to me.

I think it's because a generation or so back, moms began to elevate their children to top priority in the family over their husbands. What's your take?

PUZZLED GRANDMA IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PUZZLED: The world is different today. Many women feel torn because they want or need to work, while at the same time feel pressured to help their children succeed in an increasingly competitive world. (Is the child academically prepared for kindergarten? Is the child able to work cooperatively with others? Is the school highly rated enough? What and how many extracurricular activities will boost their child's chances of excelling?)

While it may seem like nonsense to you, I assure you it does not seem like nonsense to them. Women of your generation didn't second-guess themselves because parenting a generation ago was simpler. If children seem to be the No. 1 priority these days it may be because both parents feel driven to succeed and are determined that their children will, too.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for 11 years. We are financially and emotionally stable. We recently became friendly with another couple who are newly married and not as financially secure as we are. They spend frivolously.

When we go on vacation, they invite themselves along and assume they are staying in our travel trailer without asking (they have their own trailer they could bring). They don't offer to help pay for gas. The last trip we took, the wife cooked only one meal, while I prepared the rest for a three-day trip. This upcoming trip, they haven't offered to bring anything.

We don't mind sharing what we have and helping our friends out, but what we are starting to resent is the assumption that because we make more money, we'll pick up the tab for everything. Are we wrong to feel this way? My husband and I both see this the same way.

STARTING TO RESENT THEM

DEAR STARTING TO RESENT THEM: It's not wrong to not want to be taken advantage of. This wouldn't be happening if you had established some rules in the beginning, but it isn't too late to do it now.

Call the wife. Tell her what you expect her and her husband to bring on the next trip, and what chores they will be expected to perform. It isn't fair that you are doing all the work and paying for everything while they are on your vacation.

They should provide—or pay for—half the groceries, half the gas, and share any housekeeping responsibilities. Ditto if you go to a restaurant. And the next time they tell you they are coming with you on your vacation, don't hesitate or feel guilty when you reply, "We'd like some privacy this time, so it will just be the two of us."

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

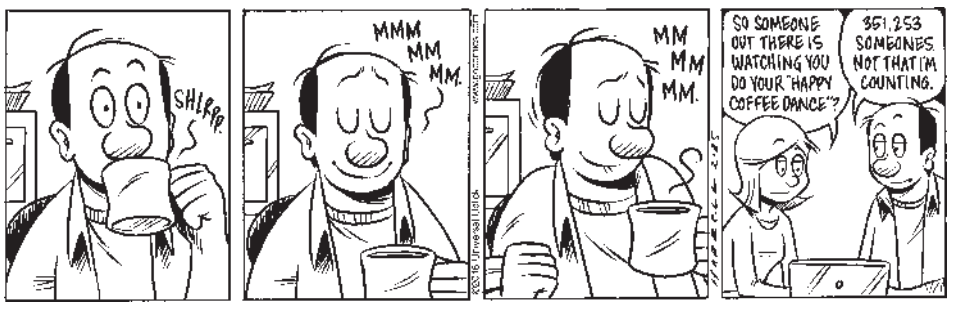
WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A RADICAL TERRORIST.
MM HMM..
I'M GOING TO INHALE THIS CAN OF PESTICIDE.
MM HMM..
I'M GOING TO WATCH TV ALL NIGHT.
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, BUSTER!
YOU CAN NEVER TELL IF THEY'RE LISTENING OR NOT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

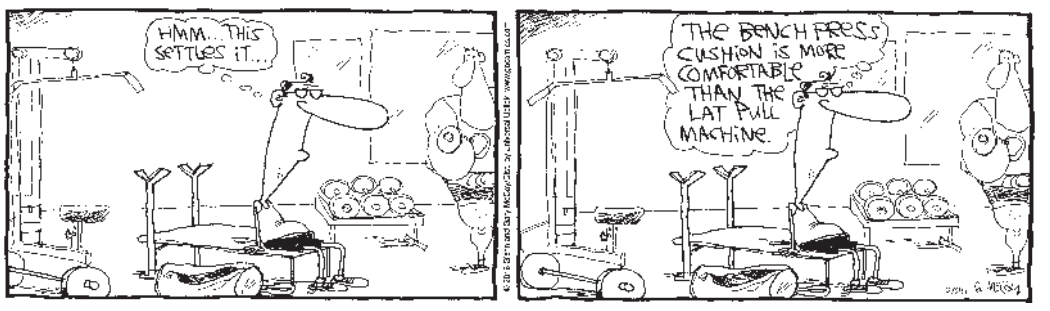
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SHIRR
MMM MM MM.
MM MM MM.
SO SOMEONE OUT THERE IS WATCHING YOU DO YOUR "HAPPY COFFEE DANCE"?
351,253 SOMEONES. NOT THAT I'M COUNTING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

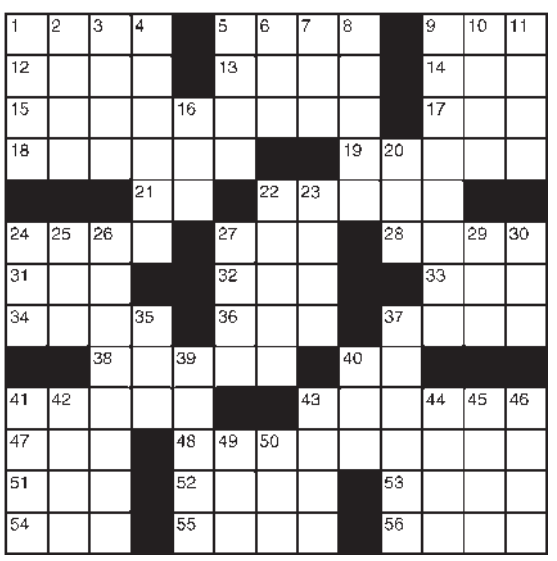
ACROSS
1 Colorless
5 "That was close!"
9 Sheepish remark
12 Architect Saarinen
13 Head light?
14 Einstein's birthplace
15 Playground "monkey bars"
17 "The Matrix" character
18 Orbital high point
19 Boring tool
21 "— Bohème"
22 Food from heaven
24 Leaf
27 Gearwheel tooth
28 Norwegian saint
31 Ostrich's kin
32 Undivided
33 Eggs
34 Madcap
36 Agrees to
37 Cygnet's parent
38 Stares stupidly
40 "Let It —"
41 Hindu title
43 Blows one's top
47 Cover
48 Blue jeans
51 "Entourage" character
52 Sicilian spouter
53 Slippery — eel
54 "Big" London attraction
55 Requirement
56 Pitch

DOWN
1 "— Vu" (Warwick hit)
2 Enlist again
3 Florence's river
4 Word game with dice
5 Sledder's cry
6 Witch
7 TV Tarzan Ron —
8 Female
9 Seaside cottage
10 Sheltered
11 Cupid's specialty
16 Meadow
20 Popular card game
22 Monastery dwellers
23 Mellows
24 Dispensed candy
25 Docs' org.
26 Classic Kipling poem
27 Diner employee
29 Glamorous Gardner
30 Enthusiast
35 Candied veggie
37 Painter Georges —
39 Add lanes to, as a road
40 Bikini top
41 Thick chunk
42 Telegram
43 "Zounds!"
44 Mexican money
45 Herbal brews
46 Taxpayer IDs
49 Salt Lake athlete
50 SSW opposite

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	O	B	S	■	E	T	E	■	U	V	E	A
E	I	O	I	■	R	I	M	■	P	I	I	I
V	I	R	T	U	O	S	O	■	A	R	M	S
Y	O	G	U	R	T	■	T	A	T	T	O	O
■	■	■	P	S	I	■	E	C	R	U	■	■
A	I	V	■	A	C	I	■	L	E	O	N	I
S	W	I	G	■	A	R	O	■	E	U	R	O
K	O	R	A	N	■	Y	A	W	■	S	A	N
■	■	■	I	Z	O	D	■	B	I	O	■	■
T	O	L	E	D	O	■	A	N	N	O	Y	S
A	B	I	T	■	V	I	R	G	I	N	A	L
M	I	T	T	■	E	V	E	■	O	-	L	A
S	T	Y	F	■	S	S	T	■	N	Y	F	T

Yesterday's answer 2-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rashida Jones, 40; Chelsea Handler, 41; Sean Astin, 45; Tea Leoni, 50.

Happy Birthday: Go after your dreams. Embrace change if it will help you eliminate the things that are holding you back. It's time to fix what hasn't been working or find something new to pursue. Put yourself and your goals first. Once you have stabilized your situation, you will be able to help others, but for now, help yourself first. Your numbers are 3, 15, 24, 29, 37, 45, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Pace yourself and don't offer something that is unrealistic. Romance is in the stars. Be receptive to the help being offered by someone who loves you. You will get a pleasant surprise if you tidy up your personal papers. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Share ideas with someone you feel can complement what you are trying to achieve. Your dedication will impress outsiders, but not someone you are close to. Be willing to walk away from a situation that is negative. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will try to butter you up in order to get something from you. Put your energy into self-improvement and a romantic encounter with someone you consider to be an intricate part of your life. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick close to home. Work on projects that are intriguing. Taking an unusual approach to the way you do things will help you stand out and contribute to your advancement. An unexpected emotional situation must not be allowed to ruin your day. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take care of affairs of the heart. Make a commitment that will lead to an alternative plan that promises to improve an important relationship. Change should be put into play. Personal opportunities and gains are apparent. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't give in to someone who is using emotional manipulation to get you to do things. Be firm and only do what you feel is fair. Do something that will encourage you to look your best. Join a gym or update your appearance. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do your part and you will make headway. A romantic relationship will allow you to explore new possibilities. Your appeal will bring you greater popularity and help you change the way people treat you. A window of opportunity is heading your way. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be sidetracked by what you want to do instead of doing what's expected of you. It's in your best interest to take care of your responsibilities if you want to be left alone to focus on your passion. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let indulgence entice you. Trying to avoid situations that need to be dealt with will only lead to stress. Being honest about the way you feel and what you want is the only way to live your dream. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Unexpected changes will change you personally, but if you look beyond your immediate circle, you will discover an opportunity to bring something or someone from your past back into your life. Don't be afraid to be different. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You won't have any trouble claiming the spotlight. Let your charm, grace and imagination help you spark interest in who you are and what you have to offer. Hold court and command attention, and you will make progress. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make sure you have all the pertinent information before you share your opinions. Someone will put you in your place if you neglect to give a fair appraisal of what's happening. If someone asks you to keep a secret, honor their request. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a peacekeeper, a charmer and an ambassador of goodwill. You are popular and unique.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7		9	6		
6							4	
4	8				2	1		
		2			6			
			1		3			
			5			9		
		6	9				3	2
	5							8
		7	4		1			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	3	1	9	7	2	8	6
2	9	6	3	4	8	5	1	7
7	1	8	5	6	2	4	9	3
8	3	1	6	7	4	9	2	5
4	7	2	9	8	5	3	6	1
6	5	9	2	3	1	7	4	8
1	6	7	4	5	9	8	3	2
9	2	5	8	1	3	6	7	4
3	8	4	7	2	6	1	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'THE REVENANT' (FILM) Solution: 10 letters

E	X	W	E	S	T	O	N	O	S	R	E	D	N	A
E	B	I	L	L	W	P	D	O	M	H	N	A	L	L
N	T	R	A	P	P	E	R	S	E	D	H	E	E	T
A	T	E	I	H	E	N	R	Y	A	T	J	D	O	S
U	E	T	P	D	E	V	A	D	I	A	I	M	N	E
D	K	L	O	T	G	I	D	M	N	C	H	A	A	R
L	C	U	W	N	L	E	S	D	A	A	Ⓕ	R	R	R
A	E	O	A	I	A	T	R	P	R	Ⓤ	S	K	D	O
R	B	P	Q	A	S	O	R	D	Ⓡ	W	E	J	O	F
E	E	V	A	S	S	I	Y	C	I	E	N	O	O	B
G	L	E	E	S	O	N	O	L	T	L	O	N	C	U
Z	K	H	G	U	H	L	L	I	U	U	J	E	U	R
T	D	G	O	O	D	L	U	C	K	A	O	R	K	G
I	O	O	E	T	A	F	M	U	R	P	H	Y	I	E
F	G	Y	B	B	U	T	S	R	E	T	N	U	H	N

©2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/25

Adde, Alejandro, Anderson, Andrew, Beckett, Bill, Boone, Bridger, Burge, Cold, Dave, DiCaprio, Domhnall, Duane, Elk Dog, Fate, Fitzgerald, Forrest, Fur, Glass, Gleeson, Goodluck, Henry, Hikuc, Hugh, Hunters, Inarritu, John, Joner, Jones, Leonardo, Mark, Murphy, Paul, Poulter, Powaqa, Save, Smith, Stubby, Tom Hardy, Toussaint, Trappers, Weston, Will

Yesterday's Answer: Issued

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NMPASI
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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION TITLE: **LEGAL COUNSEL**
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REPORTS TO: Program Manager
LOCATION: NMPASI Office – Saipan

OVERVIEW:
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GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:
This is an exempt professional position responsible for providing legal guidance on the day-to-day advocacy services for eligible clients with disabilities and for conducting community outreach/presentations regarding issues surrounding the needs of individuals with disabilities. The Legal Counsel is selected by a panel of NMPASI Management Staff, reports to the Program Manager and works under limited supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures with considerable latitude for independent action and decisions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
- ✔ Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree;
- ✔ Admitted to Practice Law in the United States District Court of the Northern Mariana Island; the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and Supreme Court of the Northern Mariana Islands; and
- ✔ Demonstrated interpersonal skills which allow employee to maintain productive working relationships with co-workers, clients and other working professionals.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on Middle Road approximately 100 yards north of Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for application to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resume, (3) Completed Application Forms and (4) evidence of CNMI Bar admission. Incomplete applications and/or application which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 (voice) / 235-7275 (fax) or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. ***NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.***

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- Must be able to operate standard office equipment such as printers, fax and copier machines
- Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
- Must be 18 yrs of age or older

MarPac Dist., Inc offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience.

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2 = 2x1	3 = 3x1
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6 = 2x3	9 = 3x3
8 = 2x4	12 = 3x4

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Messi scores 2 as Barcelona beats Arsenal

AP
Barcelona's Lionel Messi, center, is surrounded by Arsenal players during the soccer Champions League round of 16 first leg soccer match between Arsenal and Barcelona at the Emirates stadium in London, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016.

LONDON (AP)—Barcelona's strike force proved too hot for Arsenal to handle as Lionel Messi scored both goals for the titleholders in a convincing 2-0 victory in the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday.

Messi provided a clinical finish to a breakaway move that featured strike partners Luis Suarez and Neymar in the 71st minute, and then scored an 83rd minute penalty to seal a tense first-leg match at Emirates Stadium.

The five-time world player of the year decided a game that Barcelona had dominated, even without taking all the chances that came the way of its prolific forward line.

Arsenal created opportunities in both halves, but was mainly engaged in a damage limitation exercise against a side that the club's own manager Arsene Wenger described before the game as "super favorites."

It's a tag that Barcelona certainly has now.

With two away goals and home advantage to come, Barcelona will be confident of reaching the quarterfinals for the ninth consecutive season after the second leg on March 16 at the Nou Camp.

"I liked everything about Barcelona today, everything from the very beginning," the Catalan club's coach Luis Enrique said.

"My players individually performed perfectly and I think we are deserved winners of this game. The score is very good, but nothing is decided yet. We will have to play really well in front of our crowd in order to be in the next round."

Barcelona had beaten Arsenal in both their previous meetings in the knockout stages, in 2010 and 2011, along with the 2006 final in Paris. Its second-half performance on Tuesday, which combined possession with dangerous counterattacks, was a potent reminder of that track record - and another source of frustration for Wenger.

"They are better than us, and I believe everybody knows that. But I think we could have won the game tonight if we had kept the discipline until the end," said the Frenchman. "Barcelona masters all aspects of the game, and as soon as you're in a bad position with one or two players you can get punished."

Wenger accepted that his side's chance of advancing hung by a thread, but he said he does not plan to field a weakened side in Spain.

"Barcelona is through at 95 percent certainly, but we want to go there and play," he said. "We are Arsenal football club."

Despite the disappointing ending, his side made a bright enough start and carved out a half-chance after only eight minutes. A clever backheel by Aron Ramsey found Mesut Ozil, but the return pass wasn't good enough for the Wales midfielder to get a clean shot away.

Arsenal was clearly looking to move the ball forward quickly on the break, as Barcelona gradually took control of the play - though the visitors were initially showing a lot more patience than real attacking threat.

Instead, the hosts came close to breaking the deadlock when Hector Bellerin's blocked shot ran free in the area for Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, whose low shot from close range drew a smart save by Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Despite all its share of the ball, Barcelona's first real chance came midway through the half with a free kick on the edge of the area that Messi ploughed into the Arsenal wall.

The holders were gradually ratcheting up the pressure, though, and should have opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time. Dani Alves lofted in a clever ball from the right side of the area but Suarez could only flash a glancing header across the face of the goal.

It was a scoreline that seemed to satisfy Wenger, who kept his team on the defensive for the second half.

Yet Barcelona ripped through Arsenal's defense barely three minutes after the re-start with a superb pass for Neymar, whose shot was blocked in a one-on-one with Petr Cech.

Arsenal replied with a header from Olivier Giroud from a Nacho Monreal cross that Ter Stegen did well to block as the pace and tempo of the game ticked up.

Messi had a shot in the area charged down, Suarez sent an inviting low pass across the face of the goal and it seemed to be only a matter of time before Barcelona scored.

The goal duly came when Suarez released Neymar down the left and Messi had time and space to beat Cech.

"We are extremely guilty, we have no excuse for that goal." Wenger said.

Suarez then somehow managed to hit the post from point blank range after a pass from Messi from another breakaway.

However, Messi made such no mistake from the spot after being tripped by Mathieu Flamini, sending Cech the wrong way with the spot kick. And only a fine save at the end by the Arsenal goalkeeper prevented Neymar from adding a third with a header as Barcelona staked its claim to a place in the quarterfinals.

Competition committee debates ejections for personal fouls

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Stephen Jones believes the NFL will crack down on flagrant personal fouls next season.

He's just not sure what it will take for a player to get thrown out of a game.

After spending most of Tuesday inside an Indianapolis hotel, Jones emerged from an NFL competition committee meeting and acknowledged he expects the debate over ejecting players for multiple personal fouls to be resolved as early as next month's owners meetings in Boca Raton, Florida.

The debate is all about the details.

"I think it's not really about how many, it's what personal fouls should be included," said Jones, the Dallas Cowboys' executive vice president for player personnel. "There's more to it than that (a number)."

It's yet another aspect of the growing concern over player safety in football.

In response, league officials have implemented stronger concussion protocols and supported moves to teach safer tackling techniques at all levels of the sport.

The competition committee, meanwhile, has recommended a series of rules changes in recent years to provide more protection on the field. Some of the alterations have included penalties for hitting defenseless receivers, restricting the use of the crown of the helmet by offensive or defensive players, and eliminating blind-side blocks, particularly on punt or kick returns.

New concerns emerged last December when New York Giants receiver Odell Beckham Jr. was called for three personal fouls during a loss to the Carolina Panthers. Beckham played aggressively throughout the game, but some of his penalties were so flagrant it spurred a debate whether players with more than one offense in a game should automatically be ejected - like basketball players and coaches who receive more than one technical foul, or soccer players who receive two yellow cards.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said during Super Bowl week he believes two personal fouls in the same game by one player should lead to ejection, and Jones indicated there's not much dissension on that point.

And now that everyone is in Indianapolis for the league's annual scouting combine, which begins Wednesday, the topic is front and center.

Prince Ali seeks suspension of FIFA presidential election

ZURICH (AP)—FIFA presidential candidate Prince Ali is asking for Friday's election to be suspended after his request for the use of transparent voting booths was rejected.

The Jordanian prince's lawyers said Tuesday they are seeking "provisional measures" from the Court of Arbitration for Sport to postpone the vote to select Sepp Blatter's successor.

CAS said it received a request from Prince Ali, asking the court to direct FIFA's election monitoring panel to use transparent voting booths and independent scrutineers "in order to safeguard the integrity of the voting process and to ensure the vote is conducted in secret."

The prince's campaign team has offered to provide the transparent booths to help prevent voters photographing their ballot paper.

In previous soccer elections, voters have reportedly been pressured to take a mobile phone into the booth and provide visual proof of who they supported.

CAS said FIFA has been asked to submit written answers to the prince's request. CAS said it would issue a ruling no later than Thursday morning, a day ahead of the scheduled election.

Prince Ali's lawyers said in a statement that the FIFA's rejection of his request for transparent voting booths would deny "any right to a fair and transparent voting process."

The lawyers, Francis Szpiner and Renaud Semerdjian, said FIFA was only requesting that voters leave their mobile phones behind when they go to the voting booths.

"This request is not sufficient," the statement said. "FIFA remains silent upon the measures to enforce it and sanctions associated with it."

FIFA turned down a demand for a fast-track hearing on Prince Ali's request, the lawyers said.

"As a consequence, we are now seeking provisional measures before CAS to suspend the coming election," the statement said.

Ali is one of five candidates in the race, along with Sheikh Salman of Bahrain, UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino, South Africa's Tokyo Sexwale and former FIFA executive Jerome Champagne of France.

Sheikh Salman, who replaced Prince Ali as the FIFA vice president for Asia last year, dismissed the complaint.

Wall gets triple-double as Wizards top Pelicans

AP

New Orleans Pelicans guard Toney Douglas, left, defends Washington Wizards guard John Wall during the first half of an NBA basketball game, on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016, in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Wizards have played tough defense since the All-Star break. They answered another big challenge on Tuesday night.

John Wall had 16 points, 12 rebounds, and 11 assists, helping the Wizards to a 109-89 win over Anthony Davis and the New Orleans Pelicans.

Marcin Gortat had 21 points and 11 rebounds for Washington, which pulled away in the second half of its season-high fourth straight home win. Jared Dudley scored 18 points on six 3-pointers and helped hold Davis in check after he had a monster game at Detroit.

"Tonight we kept giving him different looks, never let him feel comfortable, and anytime I could put pressure on him I did," Dudley said.

The Wizards have won three of four since the break, holding their opponent under 90 points in each victory.

Wall was 5 for 17 from the field in his second triple-double of the season and fifth of his career. He also had two steals in 31 1/2 minutes.

Davis grabbed 20 more rebounds, but was held to just nine points on 3-for-9 shooting. The All-Star forward had 59 points and 20 rebounds in a 111-106 victory against the Pistons on Sunday.

"They had a guy playing behind him and in front of him the entire game," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "We had to have other guys step up and make shots, and we just didn't shoot the ball very well."

It was the first time this season that Davis failed to score in double figures when he played at least 20 minutes.

"It's tough," he said. "You never get in a rhythm, sometimes you don't touch the ball, but that's why you have teammates -- other guys gotta play off of that and try to make it work."

Jrue Holiday had 20 points and seven assists for New Orleans, which had won four of five to remain on the fringe of the Western Conference playoff hunt. Ryan Anderson scored 16 points on 7-for-11 shooting.

Leading 54-51, the Wizards opened the third quarter with a 14-0 run.

Dudley hit a 3-pointer, fed Gortat for a layup and nailed another 3 from the wing on consecutive trips.

"I thought that third quarter, we just jumped right on it," Wizards coach Randy Wittman said. "Ball movement, defense, our guys, I've got to give them a lot of credit."

Three possessions later, Dudley struck again for his sixth 3. The crowd let out a collective groan when he missed from beyond the arc on the next trip, but Otto Porter rebounded and fed Wall, whose 3-pointer from the top of the key made it 68-51.

"A couple ones I wish I could have had back," Dudley said. "I got a little tired. I don't think I've ever been tired shooting 3s, but that might have been the first time."

New Orleans was without starting center Omer Asik, who sprained his ankle against the Pistons.

Gentry was asked before the game what he liked best about Davis' 59-point effort on Sunday.

"He's still too doggone unselfish, to be honest with you, sometimes," a chuckling Gentry said. "I said `I'm going to have to tell you, these games don't come along all the time, and you've got to take full advantage of them when they do.' But that's just who he is."

Magic 124, Sixers 115

In Philadelphia, Orlando coach Scott Skiles called it a must-win game, and the Magic found a way.

A nice scoring night was barely better than a shoddy defensive performance.

Vucevic scored a season-high 35 points against his former team, leading the Magic to a 124-115 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Tuesday.

Vucevic, drafted 16th overall by the 76ers in 2011, also had nine rebounds and four assists, helping Orlando bounce back from a 105-102 home loss to Indiana. The Magic have won four of six while trying to gain ground in pursuit of their first playoff berth in four years.

"I wanted to come out and lead the way so they can follow me," said Vucevic, who was 13 for 21 from the field and 9 for 9 at the line.

Victor Oladipo added 22 points and Evan Fournier scored 21 for the Magic, who return home on Thursday to host the NBA-best Golden State Warriors. Aaron Gordon contributed a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

"Golden State will score 300 on us if we play like that," Skiles said. "Of course, we're glad to get a win. But even finishing out the game, just throwing the ball all around and stuff, it's hard to feel good about it."

Kings 114, Nuggets 110

In Denver, DeMarcus Cousins scored 39 points, including the go-ahead free throws with 48.3 seconds left, and the Sacramento Kings edged the Denver Nuggets 114-110 on Tuesday night.

Cousins came up big down the stretch, scoring eight of the final 13 points for the Kings, who blew a 17-point lead in the second half before rallying at the finish.

The All-Star center stole the ball from D.J. Augustin and was fouled on his way to the basket. He made both free throws to give the Kings a lead they wouldn't relinquish. Cousins preserved the win by stripping the ball away from Darrell Arthur in the final seconds.

It was Cousins' 53rd career game with at least 30 points. Rudy Gay added 16 points, 10 rebounds and three of Sacramento's 12 blocked shots, helping George Karl get the win against his former team.

The Nuggets had eight players score in double figures in their fourth loss in five games. Will Barton scored 14 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, and Danilo Gallinari had 17 points. Nikola Jokic finished with 13 points, 13 rebounds and six assists.

The game appeared to be headed toward a blowout before Denver went on quite a run and it was back-and-forth over the last 4:06. It wasn't until Cousins' free throws and putback layup that the Kings began to feel a little more secure.

Jazz 117, Rockets 114

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored 28 points and the Utah Jazz defeated the Houston Rockets 117-114 in overtime Tuesday night in a game with significant playoff implications.

The victory moved the Jazz into the No. 8 spot in the Western Conference playoff race, a half-game ahead of the Rockets.

The first tiebreaker for a two-way tie is head-to-head winning percentage. The Rockets fell to 2-1 against the Jazz this season.

James Harden scored 42 points for Houston, and Jason Terry hit a 3-pointer with 10.8 seconds remaining in regulation to tie it at 106 and force overtime.

Rodney Hood made a 3 over Dwight Howard with 51.9 seconds left in OT to give the Jazz a 115-112 lead. Harden followed with a layup, but Derrick Favors' putback pushed the margin to 117-114 with 11.8 seconds to go.

Favors finished with 19 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks. Howard had 13 points and 16 rebounds.

SIDEBAR Marc Gasol to miss rest of season after surgery

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Grizzlies center Marc Gasol will miss the rest of this season after having surgery to repair his broken right foot.

The Grizzlies announced Tuesday that Gasol had surgery on Saturday. General manager Chris Wallace said in a statement that a full recovery is expected.

"Marc's determination and competitive spirit will serve him, his family and the team well as he begins the healing and rehab process from which we expect him to make a full recovery," Wallace said. "We are confident we will have Marc back anchoring our team next season and beyond."

Gasol signed a five-year contract last July after earning a starting spot in the All-Star game last season. He also was the first Grizzlies player voted to the All-NBA first team.

The 7-foot-1, 255-pound center averaged 16.6 points and 7.0 rebounds in 52 games this season. He scored 11 points in the first quarter Feb. 8 against Portland before leaving with the injury.

"It is frustrating to not be on the court with my teammates at this time," Gasol said in a statement released by the Grizzlies. "But I understand that the focus of this process is on long-term health and stability. I look forward to the road ahead and a full and successful recovery."

The Grizzlies, 32-23 and fifth in the Western Conference, have made the playoffs each of the past five seasons. Memphis has won two of three games without Gasol and made two trades last week adding center Chris Andersen, P.J. Hairston and Lance Stephenson in exchange for Courtney Lee and Jeff Green.

"We know this is a difficult time for Marc and want to be supportive of him during his recovery," Grizzlies guard Mike Conley said. "His presence is still felt greatly within the locker room, and even while he is sidelined, he is still leading us as we push forward.

In Miami, Beno Udrih needs season-ending surgery, and the Miami Heat roster is about to take another hit.

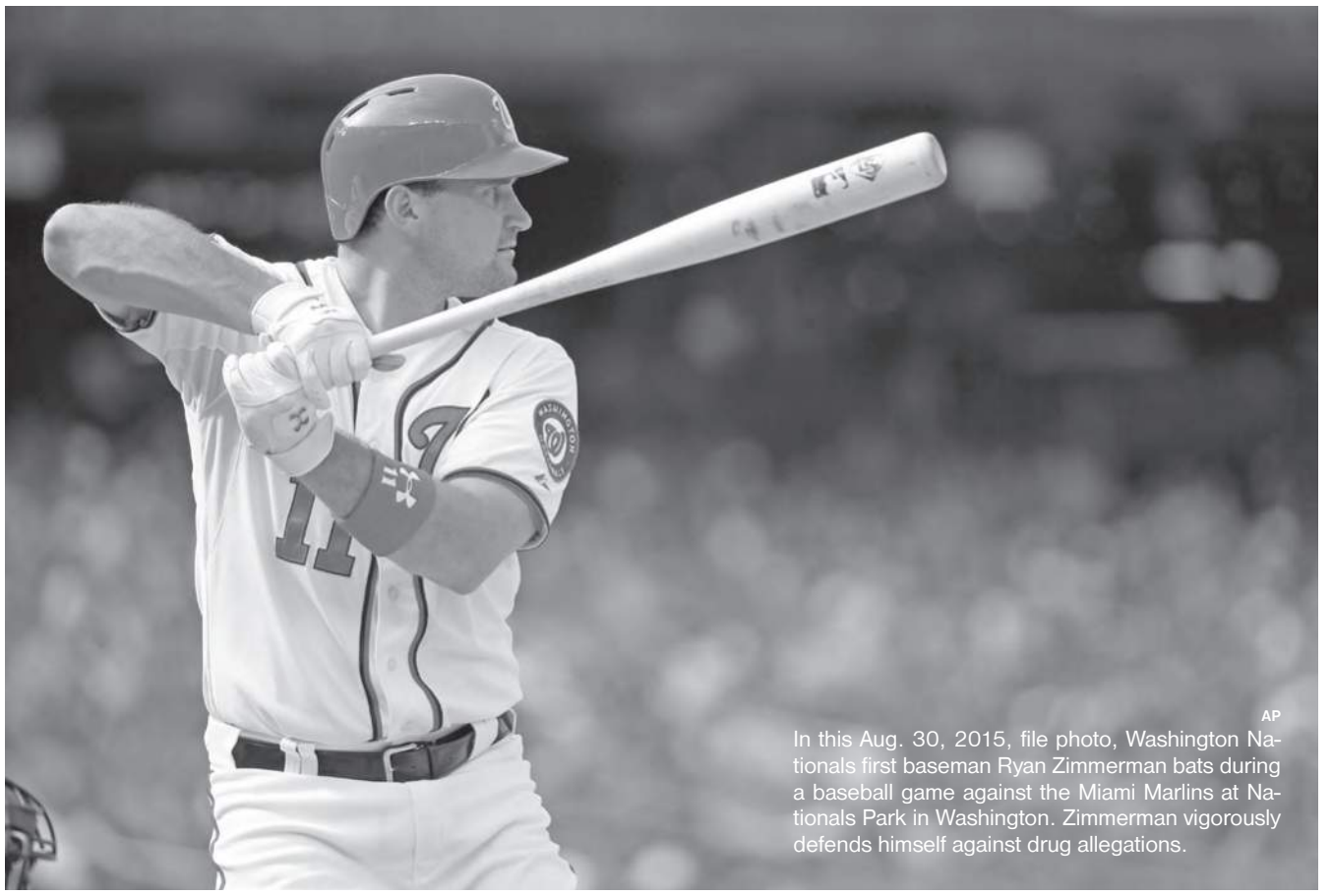
The reserve point guard will have a procedure this week to repair a right foot problem, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Tuesday night. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the Heat nor Udrih had revealed anything publicly, and the exact nature of the surgery has not yet been disclosed.

Yahoo Sports first reported Udrih's need for surgery.

Udrih was apparently hurt in the second quarter of Miami's win over Indiana on Monday night. Udrih was limping slightly right before he was taken out of the game and X-rays performed that night were negative. But an MRI on Tuesday showed the need for surgery, which—barring a move—would leave Miami with 10 players available.

Chris Bosh is out while he deals with a blood clot, Tyler Johnson could miss the remainder of the season because of shoulder surgery and the Heat have two open roster spots after a series of trades helped them get under the luxury tax threshold. Miami has enough room below the tax line to add a player, though may have to wait a bit longer in order to avoid going back into taxpayer territory.

Nationals' Zimmerman denies using PEDs



AP
In this Aug. 30, 2015, file photo, Washington Nationals first baseman Ryan Zimmerman bats during a baseball game against the Miami Marlins at Nationals Park in Washington. Zimmerman vigorously defends himself against drug allegations.

VIERA, Fla. (AP)—Even after a decade in the majors, Ryan Zimmerman knows that one report saying he took performance-enhancing drugs could tarnish his reputation.

So he's fighting to clear his name after Al-Jazeera America aired a documentary in late December that implicated the Washington Nationals' starting first baseman.

In January, he and Philadelphia Phillies first baseman Ryan Howard filed defamation suits against the network, and on Tuesday Zimmerman vigorously defended himself against the claims made in "The Dark Side: Secrets of Sports Doping."

Zimmerman—who said his emotions have ranged from shock, anger and frustration —believes trainer Jason Riley is how his name got linked to pharmacist Charles Sly, who was featured in the documentary. Sly recanted his statements about Zimmerman, Howard and Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning taking human growth hormone before the documentary aired.

"I've never met that guy, I've never heard of that guy," Zimmerman said of Sly. "None of that stuff is true. I've never done any of that. I've never even thought about doing any of that."

The organization's longest tenured player said he was willing to open up his entire life, including phone and email records, to discovery as part of the defamation suit. Even though Zimmerman acknowledged it's difficult for public figures to successfully sue for defamation, he felt it was his responsibility to go through the process.

"Maybe if this stops this from happening to just one person after me, then it's worth it," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman and Howard filed suits in U.S. District Court in Washington Jan. 5 against Al-Jazeera America. The 31-year-old said his ability to afford to file for defamation and the statement it made about his life and career made doing so an easy decision.

"Opening myself up to everything that filing a suit opens you up to, I don't really think there's much of a stronger I guess action for me to take than saying: `Here you go. Come look at me legally," Zimmerman said. "A lot of people have said certain things when they're accused of these but have never taken these actions, so by taking these actions I'm basically letting them into all aspects of my life. ... I'm willing to take to show people that I have nothing to hide."

Zimmerman is going into his 11th full major league season. He's a .283 career hitter with 200 home runs and 783 runs batted in.

The documentary added Zimmerman and Howard to the long list of baseball players who allegedly have taken performance-enhancing drugs. Across the state in Clearwater, Howard said the documentary came as a surprise and denied the statements made in it.

Zimmerman said he's in favor of continued investigations as long as they're not reckless.

"We need investigations because I'm one of the biggest advocates for getting things out of sports," Zimmerman said. "I think people need to be a little bit careful before they just start throwing peoples' names out there."

Zimmerman wanted so badly to talk to Dusty Baker about the situation that he followed his new manager into his office from the parking lot Tuesday morning. Baker could hear the "hurt" in Zimmerman's voice about the allegations.

"He explained it to me, which he didn't really have to," Baker said. "But he wanted me to know what was going on and how sad and kind of angry but embarrassed (he was) about the whole situation because he's a guy that really cares about kids and about other people and how they think of him and the influences that he may have on young people. He'll be exonerated."

Zimmerman, whose goal for 2016 is to stay healthy after injuries limited him to just 156 games combined over the past two seasons, understands that filing for defamation could make the road to exoneration a long one. It's his hope that surrendering his privacy for the suit sends a statement about his innocence.

"I don't really know a stronger way to express myself," Zimmerman said. "I don't think there is a stronger way to express myself in this country than that."

MP

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ing-game loss with an impressive 5-0 victory over Kanoa.

Alan Hinson capped Tan Holdings' demolition of Kanoa after knocking in the last two goals in the match. He got his first in the 71st minute and the second six minutes later. Tan Holdings three other goals were recorded in the first half with Jonah Pohl breaking the ice in the 24th minute. Angelo Bergancia and Rico Reyes canned the next two, lighting up the board in the 36th and 39th minute, respectively.

BOYS U14
Tan Holdings 7, MP United 3

Tan Holdings was also triumphant in the boys U14 division after beating MP United at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Tan Holdings broke away in the second half after clinging to a 4-3 halftime edge. It opened a 3-0 advantage behind Joshua Waldo, Taka Borja, and Mark Esalan's goals in the second, 11th, and 14th minute, while MP United ended its silence in the 22nd, thanks to Go Sekiguchi's shot.

MP United went on to score two more goals with both of them coming from Rintaro Miyawaki (23rd and 34th minute) to remain in contention, while Tan Holdings got only one off Kirro Batino's conversion in the 31st minute.

Another goal from Esalan two minutes into the second half gave Tan Holdings more breathing room and it widened the gap anew as Batino and Borja also earned their second goal, while MP United's offense went cold in the last frame.

With Tan Holdings winning, it equaled MP United and Paire's records (1-0-1).

Paire 8, Shirley's 1

Paire barged into the win column after crushing Shirley's.

The rout was a product of Paire's team effort as it had five different players scoring against Shirley's. Kaden Church and Blake Mister had a pair apiece, while Jamin Elliot, Robbie Schorr, and Raffy Lee contributed one each. Paire got an own goal off a miscue from Shirley's Richard Waldo.

Matansa 2, Kanoa 1

Matansa notched its second win in as many games after slipping past Kanoa.

Matansa hit the board twice in the first half to gain enough cushion and take the early lead in the six-team field. Justin Charles Achas and Joshua Malig found the back of the net in the 26th and 31st minute to lift Matansa to a 2-0 halftime advantage.

A goal from Ian Karl Maniago in the 66th minute boosted Kanoa's chances for a comeback, but Matansa hung tough on defense in the closing minutes to keep the driver' seat and the victory.

SIBLINGS

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He timed in at 45.63 seconds in the 50m butterfly to surpass his old PBT of 49.09 and beat three other swimmers in his field. In the 50m backstroke, the 7-year-old swimmer clocked in at 53.45 seconds—more than three second faster than his old PBT (56.94)—and he got the two other PBTs in the 50m breaststroke (from 58.27 seconds to 56.37) and 50m freestyle (from 43.04 to 42.50).

Aasish collected 36 points from his four first place finishes to beat SSC's Dino Santo (27), Wataru Kadokura (21), and Robert DeCourteny (19) for the top honors in the boys U8 division.

Meanwhile, three other Tsunami Saipan swimmers also reigned supreme in their respective age groups.

Maria Batallones hauled 32 points to edge SSC's Kaith Lynn Chavez(31) in the girls U8 age group. SSC's Savita Sikkel (19) rounded out the field. Batallones prevailed in the last two events (50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle) to nip Chavez, who won in the 50m butterfly and 50m backstroke. The Tsunami Saipan swimmer was runner-up in the events Chavez ruled, while the latter was ranked third in the 50m breaststroke, allowing the former to take a one-point win in the division.

In the girls 11 to 12 age group, Sophia Gauran downed fellow Tsunami Saipan bet Aika Watanabe, 43-37. Gauran and Watanabe split the first two events with the latter taking the 50m butterfly and the former getting the 50m backstroke. Gauran then swept the last three races (50m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, and 200m IM) to win the all-Tsunami Saipan duel.

In the boys 17 and over division, Takumi Sugie gained 42 points to down SSC's Salofi Welch (34) and Caleb Wang (28). Sugie was the top finisher in the 200m IM, 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke, and 50m butterfly and missed a perfect run in the pentathlon after coming in at third place in the 50m breastroke (1:26.84) behind Welch (1:25.47) and Wang (1:26.35).

BLUE

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nearly equaled Armatech's output as the Blue Haus shooting guard logged 7 points to lift his team to an 18-9 lead. Three other Blue Haus players canned at least two field goal apiece as they established control in the match, while Armatech was held to three field goals, two of them came from Bong Malasarte and the other one was courtesy of Stephen Tolosa.

In the second canto, Armatech continued to struggle offensively, while Blue Haus' much younger players were on target to pad their lead to 16 at the break. Angelo Fernando, who had 6 points in the opening canto, added 8 in the second and drew help from his three other teammates to anchor a breakaway.

Armatech then began hitting its shots in the third quarter, but Fernando and company countered to keep their double-digit advantage, 51-35, going into the final canto. In the last fame, Fernando teamed up with Brendon Talania in delivering the killer blows, as they combined for 12 markers en route to Blue Haus' 15-point winning margin.

Meanwhile, in the other game last week, MJD Enterprises won over GPPC.

Blue Haus 66—Fernando 20, Talania 14, Capalad 13, Garcia 8, Santos 6, Esdrelon 4.

Armatech 51— Tolosa 13, Malasarte 8, Montano 8, Asuhan 8, Poquiz 7, Moreno 5, Canedo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-9, 34-18, 51-34, 66-51.

Seventh Day Adventist School 5K Hope Run

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Lorie Hutchinson smiles as she nears the finish line of the Seventh Day Adventist School 5K Hope Run held last Sunday.

Frank Diesta gets the finisher stick from a volunteer.

Ariel Lansangan leads Ryan Yoon.

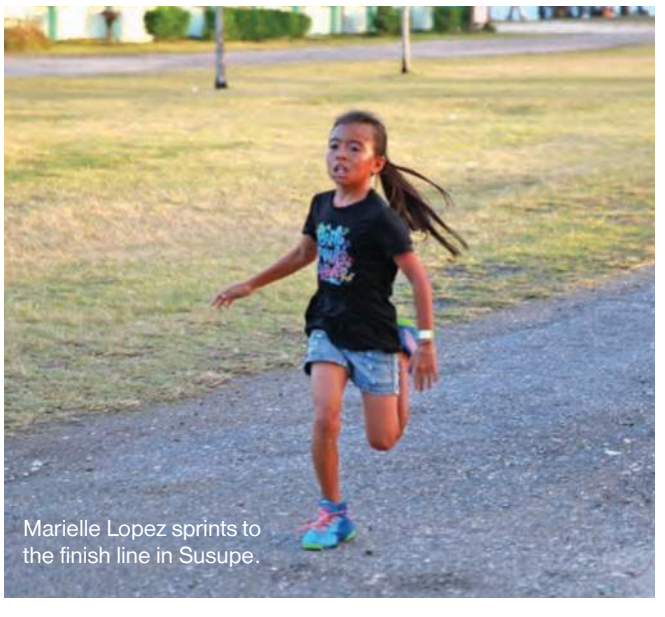
Ryan Yoon keeps his pace a few steps away from the finish line.

Jenny Yoon smiles as she is about to complete the race.

A young runner hydrates after the race.

Si Young Heo slows down as he is about to complete the race.

Finishers join volunteers for a group photo.



Marielle Lopez sprints to the finish line in Susupe.

Messi scores 2 as Barcelona beats Arsenal

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wall gets triple-double as Wizards top Pelicans

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Siblings shine for Tsunami Saipan

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ashley, right, and Aasish Dangol, race in the 50m butterfly event in last Saturday's 2016 SSC Pentathlon Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan's Ashley and Aasish Dangol finished on top of their respective age groups in last Saturday's 2016 SSC Pentathlon Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Ashley ruled the girls 9 to 10 age group, as she won four of the five events lined up in the Saipan Swim Club-organized tournament. The 9-year-old swimmer got 9 points each from her four first place swims and 6 for her one third ranking for a total of 42 points. Ashley defeated teammates Nanaka Watanabe (37), Risa Sekiguchi (22), Kana Suzuki (21), and Ayumi Obligacion (20) and SSC's Jinie Thompson (27) and Ayaka Sato (11).

The older Dangol's first place finishes came from the 50m butterfly (35.51 seconds), 50m backstroke (39.04), 50m freestyle (33.54), and 200m individual medley (3:04.41), while she missed a sweep after rounding out at the third place in the 50m breaststroke (49.97 seconds) behind Nanaka (44.97) and Obligacion (49.58).

Despite failing to rule the 50m breaststroke, Ashley managed to earn a personal best time in the event, as her previous PBT read at 53.04 seconds. She also bagged PBTS in the 50m backstroke (from 39.52 seconds) and 200m IM (from 3:13.76) events.

Aasish, on the other hand, had 4-for-4 PBTs en route to winning the boys U8 division.

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Blue Haus eases past Armatech

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus got its third win in the 2016 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood/IT&E Basketball League after dominating Armatech, 66-51, last week at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

Blue Haus limited Armatech to single digit in scoring in the first and second quarter to set up the easy victory and hand the latter its third loss in as many matches.

Armatech scored only 9 points each in the first two periods, allowing Blue Haus to build a comfortable 34-18 halftime advantage. In the first canto, White Capalad

See BLUE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MJD Enterprises' Paul Bautista pulls up for a shot against GPPC's Bobby Sampang during the third quarter of their game in the Emon Lodge caging last Friday at the Civic Center court.

MP United takes early lead in U17 division

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club made it two in a row in the boys U17 division of the 2016 NMIFA Youth Spring League following a 1-0 victory against Matansa FC last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

With the victory that came after MP United won its season debut against Tan Holdings, 3-0, the former got the solo lead in the five-squad field. Matansa dropped to second place with its 1-0-1 win-draw-loss record, followed by Tan Holdings (1-0-1), Paire FC (0-0-1), and Kanoa FC (0-0-1).

Sun Joon Tenorio handed MP United its second win in as many games after drilling the lone goal in the match in the 60th minute.

In the other game in the U17 division, Tan Holdings bounced back from its open-

See MP on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa, left, and MP United players' arms get tangled as they chase the ball during the first half of their boys U17 game in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.